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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
New Moon 1st 30th	1	2	3	4	5	6
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PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber) to send may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made. No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY.

Bourdon Wilson, First Prize.

Mary R. P. Hatch, Second Prize.

Sarah E. Gannett, Third Prize.

Frederick E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.

A. M. Barnes, Fifth Prize.

A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BOURDON WILSON.

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to the office and was promptly admitted to the presence of his superior.

"Ah, Walters!" exclaimed the Superintendent, spinning his chair around and omitting the formality of a salutation, "you are just the man I was expecting. I wanted to see you to tell you that I have decided to transfer you to the A. & P. There is something radically wrong down there, just what and where I am unable to say; but for the past month packages of money have been disappearing from the cars from right under the messengers' noses, if they tell the truth, and we have not been able to trace the thefts to any one. It's all very mysterious and I have concluded to end it by making a clean sweep of the men there, putting in men of known integrity and nerve. You must start to-day and I wish I could tell you just what in particular to guard against, but I cannot; so all I will say is, permit no one to enter your car and remember that 'eternal vigilance is the price of success'."

An order issued by Wells & Fargo's officials is as unalterable as were the laws of the Medes and Persians, therefore Tom's preference as to going or staying where he was would have cut no figure whatever, so he did not express it. Having obtained all the information the Superintendent could give him he said good-by and started that night for The Needles, the western end of his new run.

From The Needles the A. & P. railroad stretches eastward eight hundred miles across Arizona to Albuquerque in New Mexico, traversing a barren region that is criss-crossed by mountain ranges, canyons and lava beds; uninhabited now for the greater part, but once the home of that mysterious, vanished people, the cave dwellers. Just the country one would expect to find filled with train robbers and outlaws of every other description.

Tom arrived at The Needles in due time and at once took out a run. It had never been demonstrated that he had a nervous system but when he reached Albuquerque he was, to draw it mildly, a little shaky. Determined that nothing should be stolen from him he had remained awake throughout the twenty-four

hours consumed by the run, and that in connection with the strain entailed by watching for something, he knew not what, had told on his nerves. However, his freight and money checked out right and a night's sound sleep steadied him again. His return trip to The Needles was without incident and nothing going wrong during his next run to Albuquerque and return, he began to think that the loss of the packages was to be attributed to dishonesty on the part of some of the discharged men. So what was his astonishment upon arriving at Albuquerque on his next run, to discover that a package containing a small sum of money was missing.

In no way could he account for the loss. He had slept during a part of the preceding night, as he had full right to do, he remembered, but the doors of his car were locked and barred and he was sure no one had entered. Why did the thief take a package containing so small a sum when there were others with large amounts, he wondered. And why did he take just one when there were several? Cudgel his brain as he would he could evolve no plausible theory. He made the usual report for missing articles and then wrote the Superintendent a letter, detailing most minutely his every action during the trip.

Feeling that the loss of the package reflected upon his watchfulness and zeal, if not his honesty, Tom determined to sleep no more while on the road. He made the return trip to The Needles without accident, but when he again arrived in Albuquerque it was to find that another package had been stolen. He could hardly believe the evidence of his senses. He had remained awake throughout the run, and was positive that no one had entered his car. Bewildered and greatly mortified, he telegraphed the account of this loss to the Superintendent. In a short while he received in reply a telegram that seemed to point to a solution of the mystery. It was brief and read:

"Don't lose your grip. Examine boxes and other freight large enough to hold a man."

Why had not he thought of that before? he asked himself, feeling that he deserved a kicking for his stupidity. Opening his freight book he ran his finger down the list of articles he had handled on the trip and stopped at the entry of a box weighing two hundred pounds which he had taken on at a station called Flagstaff. The box was consigned to the Smithsonian Institute, he noticed, but without a thought as to what that Institute might be. Turning to a list of the run preceding he was scarcely surprised to find that it also contained the entry of a heavy box, shipped from Flagstaff. It was all easy enough to understand now, he thought; he was being systematically victimized by a band of thieves, one of whom would be put in a box and shipped by his confederates; and he, watching his opportunity, would steal out on his thievish errand, then return to his box. It was no new trick and Tom berated himself soundly for not having seen through it sooner.

Promising himself to catch the thief and land him in the penitentiary if he tried the game again, he closed his book; and when he returned to The Needles, he was the most wide awake man on the road. When it came his turn to take again the run to Albuquerque, he felt no anxiety until his train drew up at Flagstaff, and then his eyes were instantly riveted upon a large box that was being brought to his car. He saw at a glance that it bore the Wells & Fargo label, and that it was addressed to the Smithsonian Institute.

"What's in that box?" he asked the man who had it in charge.

"Give it up," the other replied. "There's a queer lot o' fellers claimin' to be professors o' some kind diggin' 'round in the old Indian caves back here in the mountains, and whatever it is they're findin' they've been shippin' back East. They say it's Indian bones and such truck, but I don't swallow that—too many bones back East for 'em to practice on, and fresh ones at that. Goin' by what they said, this box is full o' mummies, dried Indians, you know."

Tom asked nothing farther; he had no doubt as to there being a man in the box, a living man, and he did not want him to suspect that his presence there was known. Calling the other man into the car, with his assistance, he lifted the box to the top of a pile of freight where the thief would find it difficult to get out without making a noise. "Mummy!" he thought, smiling grimly. "I'll make a genuine mummy of him if he doesn't surrender when he comes out of that box."

When the train started he drew his chair into a dark corner of the car where he could not be seen from the box, and with his shot gun across his knees, sat watching as intently as ever a cat watched for a mouse. Every noise however faint smote harshly on his excited nerves, and more than once he raised his gun only to find no cause for alarm. Slowly the hours dragged by; midnight came, then two o'clock, and beginning to think that the thief did not mean to come out, Tom lowered his gaze from the box to the floor. How long he sat thus he could only conjecture, for minutes seemed hours; finally a faint, grating noise attracted his attention, and raising his eyes he was startled to see the top of the box slowly rising. Higher and higher it went until the

box stood wide open, and a dim figure within it began moving about. Now a face appeared above the edge, a shrunken face upon which the yellow skin was shriveled and drawn, hideously distorting the features almost beyond resemblance to anything human—the face of a mummy.

Fascinated by the horrid sight, Tom sat still, gazing with protruding eyes. The repulsive thing slowly crawled out of the box, and down to the floor; then another followed that one, and another and another until half a dozen or more stood in the car, their sightless eyes turned upon Tom. Now they started toward him, and terrified, he tried to raise his gun, but his muscles refused to act; nearer and nearer they crept, their dry skins crackling and rattling as they moved. They panted, then as one, sprang upon him. A piercing shriek burst his lips, and leaping to his feet, he awoke. Awoke to find his car turning over and over down an embankment, and parcels of every description, the splintered box, and a select assortment of Indian mummies filling the air and falling over him.

Tom escaped without bodily injury, but to this day he has not been able to decide from which his nerves received the greatest strain; the wrecking of the car, his dream, or his discovery in a wall of the shattered car of a rat's nest composed of bits of paper, mainly bank-notes. He is a Superintendent himself now, and he attributes his promotion largely to his having found that nest.

THE UNFINISHED HOUSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARY R. P. HATCH.

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I WAS taking a bicycle trip through a portion of the Connecticut river valley when, attracted by a pretty wood-skirted path, I branched off from the main road and into a narrow lane, following it until it ended in a pasture which was girdled by a stone wall and a set of four rudely hewn bars. Chagrined at this prosaic ending of my sylvan ride, I dismounted and was about to return the way I came, when, at a little distance, in what must have once been a cultivated field, I saw the ruins of a somewhat pretentious mansion. Surprised at its appearance here, far from the abodes of men and indeed shut off from the highway by pasture and woodland, I decided to go farther with a view to investigation.

To my surprise I found it to be a building which had been allowed to go to ruin before its completion. Half a century, at least, must have left its moss, ruin and rot to work its evil will on walls and casements, on floors and doorways. The ell had never been built, for a cellar, out of which grew poplar trees twenty feet high, yawned at the side of the square, finely modelled main part. Groups of maples and poplars of great size guarded the entrance and indeed, I was insensibly reminded of the enchanted palace where the sleeping Beauty lay waiting the coming of the Prince to awaken and marry her.

Smiling at my fancy, I decided to effect an entrance and ascertain whether the interior justified the romantic surrounding. I pushed ca the door but the hinges were rusty and the old-fashioned latch would not lift. Setting my knee determinedly against the door, I gave a sudden lurch and it opened with so much force as to throw me heavily to the floor where I lay gasping with fear and horror. What was the cause I did not at the moment seek to realize. I was not hurt by my fall but from the moment the atmosphere of the ruined dwelling met me, I was overpowered with a subtle sense of distress and terror. There was something which I had never realized before, and, trembling and shaking in every limb, I arose to my feet and looked vaguely about me.

I appeared to have entered the long, low living room, or hall, which is a feature of the old-time dwellings of the better sort. An immense fireplace held sway at one side. On two sides there were the windowless apertures, only one of which was framed; on the fourth side were doorways to other portions of the house. Bare, bleak and uninviting as was the aspect of the room there was yet no sense of loneliness. On the contrary it seemed to be crowded with unseen forces surcharged with emotion of the most intense and harrowing kind. It was something like the spell that falls upon a large gathering of people when the stirring report of a battle is read. The hearts of the hearers beat as one, a picture of the battlefield with its smoke and grime and death-cries and rattle of musketry and yells of the fiercely charging shot is before each, and a pall as of black distress settles down for the moment over the vast crowd, until, with a sense of suffocation, a rush is made for the door.

So did I feel suffocated in this bare, bleak room; so did waves of horror, sympathy and distress beat upon my heart, compelling me to a realization of some incident of woe which I had not witnessed but which the unseen participants blazed into my very being. What it was I could not tell, but of one thing I was convinced. It was this: that, curious as the statement may seem to the reader, a direful tragedy had occurred some time in this house, probably in this very room. It was with difficulty that I at last succeeded in shaking off the spell which had seized me. I had my photographer's outfit with me. It was late in the afternoon, the sun was nearly down. I decided to have a picture of this weird, uncanny apartment, for my collection, and ride over from the hotel in the morning to take a photograph of the exterior. It would need a long exposure but this would insure a fine picture. I arranged the focus and carefully slipped in a plate just as the sun went down. It was so placed that a view of the fireplace and open doorway at the end would be produced.

As I worked, the feeling of horror let go its clutch on me somewhat and when ready to depart, I was quite restored to my usual equanimity but still that sense of not being alone was with me.

Closing the door carefully after me at length, I mounted my wheel and rode away, leaving inside the camera pointing dully yet mysteriously at the old fireplace as if its modern, up-to-date character were already changing into something in keeping with the room.

I did not speak of my adventure to any one at the hotel, though the landlord was a garrulous fellow who would, no doubt, have been glad to tell me all he knew about the old place; but I had no time that night for gossip as my weekly article for the Sunday Globe was overdue and must be written. Accordingly I wrote in my room until bedtime.

The next morning I rode over to the ruins and entered without experiencing the feelings of the previous visit in all their intensity. Still there was yet waited to my senses on the moment of my entrance; that mysterious sense of occupancy, of another presence in the bare, grim, apartment.

Packing up my camera, after extracting the plates, I then took another look at the house, visiting the cellar, even, and the remote chambers. A thin flooring was laid and in the room directly over the living room, I observed in time to escape a severe fall, a broken board. Moved by curiosity I touched it lightly with my heel and found that sufficient pressure would precipitate one to the room below. I have said that I touched it with my heel. This you will readily believe, but not my next statement which I offer tentatively, so to speak, for I could at the time scarcely believe the evidence of my own senses, and at this remoteness of time, almost doubt its reality. But I heard it, yes, I am sure that I heard it, whatever may have been the possible disturbed state

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of my feelings at the time. I heard a deep, prolonged wail of agony ring out in that silent house which seemed to penetrate every part of the room. I felt my hair lift with horror. I stepped back affrighted, as if pushed to place by some invisible hand, and, giving one glance backward at the jagged broken board, I went down the unsteady and creaking stairs with more precipitation than was consonant with entire safety. All roads led to the living room. I turned my steps toward it and as if led by some unseen guidance went directly to the point which lay under the broken board, and which now for the first time I noticed in its relation to this room.

And then I glanced downward to the floor and again I saw something which had hitherto escaped my attention. It was a dark, deep stain on the floor, and the stain looked like blood.

At the sight there was that same curdling of the blood, the same lifting of the hair and again, or did I fancy it, the same wail of anguish which I had heard in the upper room.

I did not stop for further investigation. I had supped my fill of horrors. I rushed to the door, and taking my camera, mounted my wheel and rode away as if legions of demons were in pursuit. Strange ending of a bright morning in prosaic New England.

Before I reached the hotel I began to grow skeptical and to believe there were natural causes for the mysterious sights and sounds of the old house. A loosened casement swaying in the wind, a smear of paint on the floor might explain these, and my own susceptibility to supernatural fears to the hot biscuits, mince pies and doughnuts which largely made up the bill of fare at the hotel. So I was already returned to my usual equanimity and went immediately to my room to develop several plates, which I had on hand. These were soon dispatched and then came the last one taken. One glance at it and I looked about me dazed and uncertain. Was this the picture, the one with the old white haired, scholarly-looking man peering from the doorway at some object on the floor? It looked like a heap of drapery with something round and white at one end. Hastily drawing my microscope from my pocket I laid it over the spot and there lay exposed the white, still face of a woman. She was young, yes, and beautiful, and she lay there as if quite dead.

What tragedy was this and when had it taken place? Was it last night when my camera lay in wait to treasure up the secrets of that horrible room? Who could tell? Certainly not I.

Then, impelled by an eager fascination to see all my camera had revealed, I studied the old man's face. It was diabolical under the microscope and the patriarchal hair and beard but intensified the baleful look of the glaring eyes turned toward the prostrate figure, while the outstretched hands, with clawlike fingers, and bent form, lent to it a demonic aspect. That the picture was a true representation I could not doubt. The plate had not been previously exposed and there was but one way to account for the picture. It was, it must be, a representation of what had actually taken place in that room. I decided to make inquiries regarding the ruined house in hopes to hear something which might throw light on the subject.

The first person I encountered on going down stairs was an old man who "done chores for his board" as the landlady had already informed me. Casually remarking that I had visited the old house in the fields his face lighted up with interest.

"I wanter know," he said. "Wall, times has changed some sence Dr. Talbot set out to build that ere house."

"Why was it never finished?" I asked. "Wall, that's somethin' that don't nobuddy reelly know. Some says his money gin out and some says his niece bein' killed there sorter gin 'im a shock he couldn't git over in a hurry."

"Niece killed?" I repeated, galvanized to the most intense interest.

"Yes; you see she was turrible rich an' he was to have her money 'ordin' to the will dockments, if she died unmarried or before she was twenty-one. Dr. Talbot was rich himself, had hundreds of acres of wild land but folks said his fingers got to itchin' after his niece's money. There was talk all along an' when she was killed there in the house after she'd rode over with the doctor to see it, naturally there was a lot more talk. The doctor was took up an' examined, but Lor! they couldn't find nothin' agin him! Most like it was as he said. She stepped on a board that was cracked clear across it and fell through. There was them that said the fall never killed her and there was a turrible big bruise on her head as if she'd ben struck. But then again the doctor said she struck on her head when she fell. Wall, nobuddy knows to this day but anyway, Dr. Talbot, he never finished the house and he died the very year follering."

"Did the doctor have a family?"

"Yes, he did; six childun, four boys an' two girls, and that, to my mind's the strangest part on't."

"I don't understand," I at length replied, for the old man had picked up a straw from a crack and was slowly chewing it, evidently lost to all but his own reflection.

CHILD WIVES.

THE PATHETIC PICTURE DICKENS DREW.

Of all the characters evolved from the master mind of Charles Dickens, there is perhaps none which can rival in its pathetic interest, that of Dora, the "Little Blossom." She found the wedding ring grow too heavy for her little hand, and in spite of the lavishness of a husband's love, she faded away just like some sweet blossom nipped by untimely frost.

The pathos of the child-wife's history reaches its climax in that last interview with her husband. David sits on the bed side, and thus the story is told:

"She looks into my eyes and speaks very softly, 'I am afraid dear I was too young. I don't mean by years only, but in experience and thoughts and everything. I was such a silly little creature. I have begun to think I was not fit to be a wife.'"

"I try to stay my tears and to reply, 'Oh, Dora, love, as fit as I to be a husband.'"

"I don't know," with the old shake of the



curls, "Perhaps! But if I had been more fit to be married I might have made you more so too. I was very happy, very, but as the years went on my dear boy would have wearied of his child-wife. She would have been less and less a companion to him. I know I was too young and foolish. It is much better as it is."

Poor little Dora! The sweet little blossom faded and fell. But how many women wake up to a realization of the burden of marriage, crying with Dora, "I was not fit to be a wife," and live on through years of misery and suffering.

UNFITNESS FOR MARRIAGE

is the cause of much of the unhappiness which is so frequently ventilated in the divorce courts. The young woman, knowing nothing of physical disabilities enters into the marriage obligation to wake from her dream of love and happiness, to a realization of possibilities of suffering hitherto unknown.

"About ten years ago I was married and three months later I became miserable, but I did not know what was the matter with me," writes Mrs. John Hemmis, of Munson Station, Pa. "I was so sick and nervous, was not able to do any work at all; had to hire it all done. My husband's mother had been using your remedies, and one day she came over to see me and brought some of your 'Favorite Prescription' with her, and she said, 'Take that medicine—I know it will help you.' I took it and it did help me and I got better of the bad feelings that I had before I commenced taking it; was soon able to do my work myself. I took the medicine right along till after confinement, and I can safely say that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is better than all the other doctors' medicine put together. Now I am happy and well and the people who saw me before when I was sick and see me now have said—'How well you look,' and they ask me what I got to make me so well. I quickly tell them what made me better. It used to be before I used your medicine that every month I had severe pains and then the hemorrhage would stop and in a day or two come back again, and so on for a week at a time, and I would have to lie in bed, but now that is all over. I can go ahead with my work as if nothing was the matter. I will ever be thankful to God and you for having such remedies to help poor suffering invalids like I was myself."

THE YOUNG WIFE'S DANGER

commonly grows out of neglect of conditions which seem to her trivial. But every variation from the normal, in the womanly functions is a prophesy of evil to come. Irregularity in the girl is often the beginning of a deranged condition, which in wifehood opens the way to serious disease. Inflammation comes and ulceration to be followed by that condition of general disease known as "female weakness." No woman is fit to be married in whom the womanly function is not regular and healthful. The use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription insures this regularity and more than all, gives positive strength and vigor to the womanly organs.

"I wrote you for advice February 4th, 1896," writes Mrs. Loma Haistead, of Claremore, Cherokee Nat. Ind. Ty. "I was racking with pain from the back of my head down to my heels. Had hemorrhage for weeks at a time,

and was unable to sit up for ten minutes at a time. You answered my letter, advised me to use your valuable medicines, viz., Dr. Pierce's 'Favorite Prescription,' 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and 'Pleasant Pellets,' also gave advice about injections, baths and diet. To my surprise, in four months from the time I began your treatment I was a well woman and have not had the backache since, and now I put in sixteen hours a day at hard work."

WHY DO WOMEN WAIT

when they discover the first symptoms of the diseases peculiar to their sex? The question is not hard to answer. Women wait because they dread to face the unpleasant questions, the indelicate examinations, and the obnoxious local treatment which their friends have undergone at the hands of some local physician. Woman's modesty is affronted by these things, and disease is allowed to go unchecked. Dr. Pierce has earned the undying gratitude of thousands of women who have taken advantage of his offer of free consultation by letter, and have been treated and cured as was Mrs. Halstead, without having to submit to questions, examinations and local treatments, offensive to every modest minded woman, and only submitted to when there seems no other way of escape.

If after undergoing all the mental martyrdom attending on such treatment, the suffering woman could be sure of a cure, it would be some consolation to her outraged feelings. But the average local practitioner can make no allowance for the differences in women. He treats them all alike, strong and weak, and makes no allowance for the delicately constructed woman, whose fine organization revolts at the crudity of his methods. The use of "Favorite Prescription" and Dr. Pierce's treatment have resulted in cures where physicians and surgeons have been entirely baffled and helpless.

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"Hey? What say?" he asked, as I repeated my question.

"Wall, about them childun, the doctor was rich when he died but his widder and them childun run through the whole property in less than two year. Fack! Mis' Talbot died at the county farm. Ducia is there now (room's all fixed up first rate with canaries and fancy work, they say. The overseer is real good to her. I'm thinkin' of goin' there pretty soon). An' Adelaide (she's dreadful han'som') turned out bad an' has gone, nobuddy knows where. Bill, he's in the Soldier's Home, Confeld is on the town down to Morway. Put (his hull name is Putnam) is a mean scalliwag of a tramp, comes round onct in a while. He won't work and he ain't above baigin'. Mis' Dean here to the tarvern han's him out cold victuals, I've seen her. Wall, I guess Mis' Dean is gettin' pretty riled by this time about her firewood," and the old man trudged off with bowed back and his arm full of wood.

I shall add no comments to the story as told by the camera and the old man. If there is a supernatural element, why then the matter is cleared up. If not, I see no explanation. In either case, it overflows with mystery.

SUSANNAH.

A Story of the Fort Hammond Massacre of 1875.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH E. GANNETT.

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USANNAH! Susannah! Drat the girl! Where has she gone now? She is more like a parched pea than ever in her movements this morning. Here I am with my hands in the butter, the cruller fat's like to be in the fire, and those pies are burning in the oven, I'm positive," and good Dame Hammond hastily freed her hands from the butter she was working, snatched the skillet of fat from the fire and set it to one side in the ashes, then seized the long

handled shovel and reached far into the depths of the big brick oven for the scorching pies. She was just setting the last one on the white kitchen table when Susannah appeared "in the doorway."

"My patience, wench!" exclaimed the good lady. "Is it fools' holiday with you to-day that you do so neglect the work? Shame upon you for a runaway that you are, and me with more than I can possibly do with one pair of hands at my call."

"I crave your pardon, mistress," replied the young girl, gently. "I did but go to the brow of the cliff to look for Indians. My mind mis-gives me sorely but they are lurking about here; and I much fear they intend to fall upon us as soon as night be come."

"And pray, what reason have you for thinking thus darkly of the Indians to-day? We have never had trouble from them, and they ever seem friendly. Why are you so uneasy? Have you seen aught awry?"

"Naught but little things. Rover sniffs suspiciously about and barks at the underbrush; the cattle are uneasy, and toss their heads and low; the horses will not stay in the lower pasture and feed, but are huddled together in this end of the paddock with their necks stretched toward us over the stone wall. I wish the men were home from the fields, and I wish you would let me call the children within the stockade and close the gate."

"Nonsense, Susannah! Why do you worry so much about the Indians? They are perfectly inoffensive. They are fond of us, I tell you, girl, and wouldn't hurt one of us."

"I do not feel so sure of that, indeed I do not. Only a few weeks ago I heard Mr. Davis say that the Indians think Mr. Hammond cheats them in trade, and does not give them a fair bargain for their furs; and they have threatened to be revenged upon him," and the tears stood in the eyes of the young girl.

"Say you so? Why have I never heard of this?"

"I did not like to give you the ill news unless there was really cause for anxiety; but I have watched, oh, I have watched so closely by day and by night! Please let me call the children in and fasten the gate."

Mrs. Hammond did not answer at once, but stepped to the door, shaded and protected by the protruding upper story of the house, and gazed about at the distant woods and the blue Kennebec flashing and glittering in the August sun, and spreading wide, above the Narrows, into Merrymeeting Bay. A movement on the further shore startled her, and she hastily stepped without the stockade to look for the children. They were not to be seen, but Susannah ran lightly down the cliff side to the water's edge, and soon reappeared carrying a little girl of three years while two other children clung to her skirts and impeded her movements as she climbed. Mrs. Hammond half laughed as she nervously caught her baby to her breast and kissed her.

"See how you have frightened me, foolish girl. I thought I saw Indians on the western bluff there, but it was naught save the bushes moving in the wind. However, we will be on the safe side and take the children within. I fear me they like it not, though," she added, as all three began to whimper at being taken away from their delightful play.

"Now, Susannah," she continued, as the gate was made fast, "we must make up for lost time. The oven must be heated again for bread, the crullers must be fried, dinner is to get and clear away, and all that flax must be spun before dark," and the two women went to work with a will; the only sounds heard for some time being the rattle of dishes and the clatter of their stout shoes on the puncheon floor. But after dinner, as they busied themselves at their flax wheels in the wide, cool upper room, while the children played quietly in one corner, their anxious looks would stray over fields, woods and river, and they talked together in low tones of their suspicions.

"Indeed, I wish the men were home!" at last

exclaimed Susannah. "Where are they this afternoon, Mrs. Hammond?"

"I heard Mr. Hammond say, at noon, that he and Francis Card and son Heredia would be at the mill, grinding. James and Samuel are with John Dean in the blacksmith shop, and the other four men are in the fields at work. They'll be tired enough when they get home, for the sun is hot to-day."

The long summer afternoon wore slowly on, and sunset found the family of sixteen souls all at home in the fortified house; the animals and fowls fed and fastened securely in their sheds inside the stockade, the children in their beds, and the older people weary and longing to follow them. To all the fears and pleadings of Mrs. Hammond and Susannah the men gave scant attention.

"Nonsense, girl!" cried Mr. Hammond; "The Indians mean no harm to us. They are cowards—the Indians around here. They dare not attack us, even were they disposed to do so. But they have no such wish. They know too well on which side their bread is buttered."

"But Mr. Davis told me that they think you cheat them in buying their furs, and they are angry and mean to be revenged."

"Oh, fudge! Don't believe all you hear. Davis was always a tale-bearer and scandal-monger, and this time, as in many another, he has heard more than any one else."

"Well, Richard," said his wife, "I hope you are right, but I cannot feel safe to-night."

"I'm sorry, good wife, for your fears, but I am too tired to sit up to watch with you;" and, kicking off his shoes, the worthy farmer turned into his bedroom, and his deep snores soon told of his heavy sleep.

One by one the men followed his example, and soon only the two women and the oldest son of Mrs. Hammond by a former marriage, James Smith, were left in the kitchen. James was as tired as the others, but he would not leave the women to stand alone, although he did not believe the reports or share their anxiety. At last, he, too, succumbed to weariness, and lay like a log asleep on a settle.

About nine o'clock Susannah's fears so overcame her that she stole without the stockade to look about a little. As she stood in the shadow of the gate peering around she was violently startled at the sight of three Indians coming towards her, while two or three others hovered in the distance. The leader spoke to her, and she recognized him as one who frequently traded with Mr. Hammond.

"What for young squaw frightened? Me no hurt. Me good Indian. Me Tasset. Young squaw know me. Me come to trade skins; see?" and he pointed to the packs they carried. "We walk long way—just come. We sleep here—to-morrow we trade; see? No be frightened." And he led her gently to the gate, which she had left ajar, and shut her in.

Mrs. Hammond was so far reassured by Susannah's story of her talk with Tasset, added to the confidence of the men, that she concluded they had been too easily frightened and both she and James went to bed. Susannah, too, went upstairs, but she could not sleep and often rose and crept to the window; and her suspicions grew as she noted more and more dusky forms in the distance.

At last she could bear it no longer. It was of no use to arouse the family, they would not believe her; so she crept softly downstairs and out of the house. She could at least fly to Sheepscot for help if they were attacked, and also save the Sheepscot colony from a like fate by putting them on their guard. As she opened the gate she shivered with dread of what might be behind it, but no one stopped her, so she slipped through, shut it—thereby shutting herself out of the safe shelter of the fort, for the latch-string was drawn inside—and sped swiftly to a field of tall corn near by, in which she concealed herself, and waited, trembling.

From her hiding-place she could see the dusky forms gathering in the darkness and surrounding the stockade. More and more of them appeared and at last she saw them setting up tree trunks against the stockade, over which they scrambled to the top of the wall, and one by one they silently dropped inside.

Soon sounds of blows, of screams and of scuffling came to her ears and she turned and ran. Through the cornfield, down the hill, over rocks and briars she sped—now splashing through the brook, now striking against trees in the darkness, now tripping against a stone she stumbled and fell, bruising herself badly, but she could not stop for those terrible screams rang in her ears, and the thought that all whom she held dear were dying—murdered by the cruel savages—spurred her on. Often she thought she heard the Indians behind her and the fear of falling alive into their hands was too dreadful to contemplate for a moment. So, although her strength was almost gone she kept on, scratched, bruised, breathless and bleeding; and just as day was breaking, she dropped, almost senseless, at the door of Jabez Stinson at Sheepscot River, and gasped out her terrible story. Warned by her the settlers quickly armed themselves to resist an attack, but none came.

At the fort the Indians, who were of the Kennebec tribe and not so fierce and bloodthirsty as other tribes in the vicinity, contented themselves with killing only the two men against whom they had a grudge—Richard Hammond and Samuel Smith. The others they took captive, rifled the house, fired it with all the surrounding buildings and departed. Part of them remained with the captives and conducted them to their wigwams up the river, while the remainder went south to Arrowic Island, where they continued the work of pillaging and destruction.

On the way up the river, one rainy night, Francis Card escaped in the darkness, made his way to Boston and told there the story of the massacre and the pillage and destruction of the fort. Of only one of the household, Susannah, could he give no account. The last seen of her by any one was when she climbed the ladder to her sleeping room, three hours before the Indians burst in upon them. He said to the Governor that Susannah had been sure all day that the Indians would attack them that night and that she must have stolen downstairs and outside the stockade to watch after all the family were asleep, and been killed by the Indians to prevent her giving the alarm to those inside the fort. She had been out once during the evening for the purpose, and the devils sent her back indoors then with fair and gentle words.

Nearly a year passed by and June had spread the land with her fairest flowers, when a little company of ragged, unburned pilgrims might have been seen making their way into Boston. Footsore they were and weary, but their faces shone and their eyes sparkled with the joy of freedom. At their head walked Mrs. Ham-

mond, bearing in her hand a letter—illiterately written and expressed—from the Indian chiefs to the Governor of Boston, freely surrendering unarmed, the twenty prisoners accompanying it, but setting forth, in a pathetic way, the wrongs and deprivations to which they themselves had been subjected by the whites.

Out upon the streets of Boston poured its people, eager to welcome the returning captives; and foremost among them, with outstretched hands and joyous words, were Francis Card and Susannah—his newly married wife—whom he had found in the home of the Sheepscot farmer, Jabez Stinson, and had wooed and won during the past winter.

COLONEL AND VOLUNTEER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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ISKE was one of a company of volunteers that went to the front when the war with Spain began. His company left home one morning in June, followed by the prayers and good wishes of fathers and mothers, sweethearts and wives. Every man of them was brave after the tears and handshakes were over and they were fairly off; every man was eager to smell the smoke of battle and help avenge the destruction of the Maine.

The spiteful hiss of a mauser bullet and the smoke from the first skirmish changed all this, and more than one wished to himself, if he did not wish openly, that the hills of Vermont were nearer, and the dusty roads of Cuba removed to the other end of the Universe.

Fiske stepped into the colonel's tent one evening after a slight engagement with the enemy; he was pale and his voice trembled, though he strove desperately to control it.

"Pretty sharp fight, this, Colonel!" said Fiske, shifting uneasily from foot to foot.

The colonel glanced up from his writing.

"Salute!"

"O, I forgot, Colonel."

"You don't want to forget. Salute!"

Fiske obeyed, saluting with precision that would have done credit to a West Pointer.

"I say, Colonel, it was a sharp fight!"

"Do you call that a fight?" replied the colonel, contemptuously. "That was only a skirmish. Were you scared?"

"No, not scared, but—"

"Nervous, eh?" suggested the colonel. "It's too bad your mother isn't here to chirk you up."

Fiske flushed hotly, but did not reply. Instead, he strode angrily out of the tent. He was furious. At home the colonel was a different man, one to whom he could freely talk—a neighbor. Now all was changed. The colonel was all importance and his seeming arrogance was unbearable. A short distance from the colonel's tent Fiske met several men from his company.

"Swallowed a ramrod, Bert?" asked one, noting Fiske's erect carriage.

"No," replied Fiske, "but I guess the colonel has. When he was getting us together, it was Mr. Jones and Mr. Fiske and Mr. Somebody Else; now it's—Salute!"

"Don't mind, Bert," said one of the men, good naturedly, "when it comes to the scratch there won't be any saluting; it'll be each man for himself and bullets for the sneaking Spaniards. There's going to be a battle soon, and somebody is going to get hurt."

"That's just what I think," said Fiske, his voice dropping, "it's mighty lonesome way down here, boys."

The men understood, but there was not one among them to suggest what the colonel suggested. Perhaps some of them were in Fiske's frame of mind.

"Here's a letter for you, Fiske," said the mail-carrier as Fiske passed on his way to his own tent.

Fiske's eyes lighted up as he noted the backing of the envelope. It was from home, one he had been expecting for several days, and he hastened to his tent.

The letter:

"MY DEAR SON:—Here at home we are watching the movements of the army with the interest which only those who have sons and husbands at the front can understand. You are far from here, many hundreds of miles, but the same love that cared for you at home surrounds you while on the battle-field."

"It is a terrible thing, this war, taking each others' lives, but duty demands that some one shall go to war, and you have gone. Be brave, my son, even as we have faith that you are brave."

"Sophie says that you will be the last one to fear of all those who went from here. She reminds me of the time you risked your life on the lake and saved the children."

"Your father adds a word, hoping that it will find you well and of good courage."

"MY BRAVE SON:—"

"I wish I was down there with you; it would seem like old times. Some of the boys will be scared when they hear the whistle of the bullets, but don't you mind; follow the flag and know that the good wishes of everybody here follow you."

"Suck it to the yellow-jackets, Bert."

"Your loving father."

Fiske read the letter several times and then slipped it into his pocket. Somehow with the reading of the letter the fear that had fast been gaining possession of him departed and he felt that he could face a regiment of Spaniards armed with mauser rifles.

The following day there was a battle. Fiske was asleep when some one roughly shook him.

"Get a hustle on, old boy, our company is about to start to the front to meet the enemy."

You've overslept, Bert."

In less time than it takes to tell it, Fiske had slipped on his shoes and strapped up his blanket and few belongings; a few moments later he had joined his comrades.

The fight was on in less than an hour. Bullets began to whistle and it was not long before some of the men began to drop, one here and one there, like stray leaves falling in the early autumn. Suddenly Fiske felt a sharp pain in his thigh and the next instant he was lying on his back. The company had swept onward with the rest of the regiment.

Presently Fiske looked about him. Others had fallen, too, among them an officer. Fiske dragged himself along the ground until he reached the side of the man. It was Colonel Brice.

"Tough fight, Colonel," said Fiske, raising himself on his elbow.

"You, Fiske?"

"Fiske it is," said the young man, saluting as well as he could under the circumstances.

"Yes, comrade," replied the Colonel, "this has been a fight."

For a few moments the Colonel wrote with a pencil on a bit of paper, now and then pausing to rest. Suddenly he stopped and turned to Fiske, who was trying to stop the flow of blood from his wound.

"Here, Fiske," said he, "keep this; I'm not going to be here long. I thought you were a coward, Fiske, but—but I was mistaken. Tell, well, tell—oh, I don't know, I guess I'll go to sleep."

This was the paper that Fiske brought home from war, the paper Colonel Brice had given him:

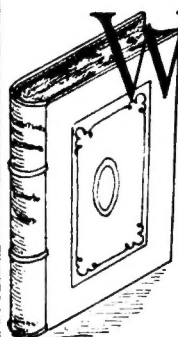
"Fiske is a hero. The wound in the back signifies no cowardice. The flag dropped and he stooped to raise it. He was shot while in the act."

COLONEL J. N. BRICE."

"IN TILL."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY A. M. BARNES.

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HAT conclusions, Paigrave?

"None whatever, Pentwick. I have drifted even further out to sea."

"Well, we must find headlight somewhere. Read the slip again."

Paigrave picked up the slip of parchment, crumpled and partly soiled. It had been hurriedly torn from a sheet legal cap size, and presented quite an uneven appearance, the wider end

being about two inches in depth, the other no more than one. With a voice pitched unnecessarily high, Paigrave read the words on the slip:

"£17000 are in Till—"

Here it ended abruptly, even more so than Paigrave's thin voice, which broke into innumerable little dying quavers.

"He says there are £17000 in the till. That accounts for no more money being visible when his effects were gone through. Every one knows that Sirius Crabstone was a wealthy man."

"But we have searched the till."

"I know; and found nothing. But there may be a secret drawer, a false back, or something of that kind. Let us go again for a search."

They left the sitting-room, and descended to the lower or ground floor. Here, at one time, Sirius Crabstone had carried on quite an extensive cabinet business. He had been fond of the work; could make all kinds of rare, beautifully carved furniture, which was in much demand for the homes of the rich planters living up the Cooper and Ashley. He had made a fortune before he hardly knew it. Being more ardently a student than an artisan, he at length gave up his trade to bury himself in books, their delights having long allured him.

He had no kith or kin near him. The only relatives he was known to have were two nieces in an adjoining state. One of them had occasionally visited him. Except for the domestic who attended his wants, he lived entirely alone.

Sirius Crabstone had left his will duly signed and witnessed. There was no trouble about that; all was clear and to the point. Most of the furniture of his house and £2000 in the hands of a private party at interest he left to the Home of the Aged; his books, with some exceptions, to the Apprentices' Library. The balance of the money was to be equally divided between his two nieces, after one fourth had been deducted as a legacy for his old friends, Paigrave and Pentwick, ship-builders, who were named as executors of the will.

But where was the money?

He had written that it was "In Till—," meaning the till, or money-drawer, of course; seventeen thousand pounds of it. There it was plainly enough on the crumpled bit of parchment that had been found beside him when he died. He had evidently purposed to add more, but the stroke of death had fallen too quickly.

They had gone, of course, to the till in the old cabinet shop, for what other till could be meant? But though they had searched carefully and slowly, even taking the drawer out to look it over closely, not one pound could be found.

Again the executors had met and again they had come to search the till. This time they literally left nothing of it save chips and shavings. There were plenty of these, for the two worked hard and patiently, but not a vestige of money.

On the fifth day thereafter one of the nieces arrived, the one who had made him an occasional visit. When told of the matter her perplexity, too, was great. She thought long and deeply. Her face suddenly cleared, then shone radiantly. She knew her uncle's habits better than any one. What was a puzzle to the others was no longer a puzzle to her.

"Oh, I have it now!" she cried. "Why didn't I think of it before?"

"What?" questioned Mr. Pentwick eagerly.

"Listen and I will tell you."

"Wonderful!" he exclaimed when she had

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finished. "It takes a woman every time," and he bowed profoundly to Miss Crabstone.

"Can it be possible?" cried Mr. Palgrave who was still in doubt. "It seems almost incredible!"

"Put it to the test and see," suggested Miss Crabstone, with a little gurgling laugh of the deepest enjoyment.

Suddenly Mr. Palgrave's face clouded.

"Consternation!" he cried, "why, it has been sold!"

"When? Where?" and Miss Crabstone started up in alarm.

"Why, do go at once," entreated Miss Crabstone, "and buy it back. Offer any price, any reasonable price, I mean."

"Don't be alarmed," assured Mr. Pentwick. "If it is there he will restore it, and at the price paid for it. The danger is that he has sold it to another."

Mr. O'Hara, the honest, genial Irishman, was in his Curiosity Shop. His wares, of all sizes, sorts and conditions, were piled from floor to ceiling. One point about Mr. O'Hara was that he never kept anything in order. How he ever found what was wanted was one of the mysteries known only to himself. But the people liked to go to his shop just to talk with him, even when they did not desire his wares, for he had much lore on many subjects.

It was on the same evening of the interview that Mr. Palgrave, pale and hurried, appeared in the Curiosity Shop of Mr. O'Hara.

"Article 91, Lot 7967, what have you done with it, O'Hara?"

Mr. O'Hara's thin face showed surprise at the rather abrupt question. Then he took his fingers several times across the lids of his eyes.

"Article 91, Lot 7967," he repeated, and for once—wonderful to say—Mr. O'Hara remembered.

"Sold," he continued after a moment, "sold the day before yesterday to a gentleman from up the Santee."

"His name?" gasped Mr. Palgrave.

"His name?" repeated Mr. O'Hara, "his name?"

"Why, I never thought to ask it. It was a cash transaction, you see. Fancy now, Palgrave, a merchant demanding of every chance customer his name!"

Mr. O'Hara looked duly aggrieved. "The only way I knew he was from up the Santee was from hearing him ask about the boat."

Mr. Palgrave rushed away in hot pursuit of the gentleman from up the Santee, never stopping to think that in Mr. O'Hara's hands rested the chief end of the thread of the clue, its beginning. For how was he to trace even the departure from the city of the gentleman from up the Santee without a description of said gentleman?

In two days, convinced of the folly of his mode of pursuit, he returned to Mr. O'Hara for the information he ought to have asked at first. This time with him came Mr. Pentwick.

"How did look?" repeated Mr. O'Hara.

"Tall, dark, heavy-browed, stoop in the shoulders and catch in voice; wore a dark brown suit, ruffled shirt front, black silk hat, and carried a cane with a griffin's head. But man alive!" broke off Mr. O'Hara, "what do you want to know all this for now when Article 91, Lot 7967 has been returned as unsatisfactory?"

"Ah!" exclaimed Mr. Palgrave blandly.

"And sold again," finished Mr. O'Hara serenely.

"What?" Mr. Palgrave almost leaped from the floor, while Mr. Pentwick fairly gasped.

"Yes, sold again; this morning, not much more than two hours ago. First party not satisfied; second party highly so."

"Heavens, man!" cried Mr. Palgrave, hopping about like a pea on a shovel, "when you had your hands on it again why didn't you keep it? I would have given you three—yes, five, ten times the amount you paid for it."

"Both your money!" retorted Mr. O'Hara somewhat rudely. "If you wanted the thing why didn't you say so at first?"

"I thought I did."

"You didn't. You came and inquired about Article 91, Lot 7967, which you yourself sold me among others some seven or eight days before. When I told you it had been purchased, you asked name of purchaser which I couldn't give; whereupon you rushed away like a madman. If it were a re-purchase you had in view then why didn't you say so?"

"I thought my actions spoke it loud enough," declared Mr. Palgrave somewhat testily.

"Who was the last purchaser?" asked Mr. Pentwick. His head seemed to be the cooler of the two.

"A lady."

"A lady? Ha! well that is funny! Strange taste for a lady!" and Mr. Pentwick seemed on the point of fairly exploding.

"Describe her, Mr. O'Hara, please."

Mr. Pentwick spoke softly, soothingly, and Mr. O'Hara was appeased.

"Young, good-looking, dressed in gray, prominently arched nose, blue eyes, which were fairly aglow as she went away, for she seemed to think she had found a treasure."

"Miss Crabstone!" declared both Mr. Pentwick and Mr. Palgrave in a breath.

"Thank you, Mr. O'Hara," said Mr. Pentwick with a beaming smile. "It seems that all our troubles are more quickly over than we thought. We know the young lady."

But the troubles of the worthy executors, Messrs. Pentwick and Palgrave, were by no means over. Indeed, they were but little more than begun. On making inquiry of Miss Crabstone she declared she had never once been near the shop of Mr. O'Hara. She had trusted too completely in the alertness and tact of her uncle's executors to take any such hand in the matter. The young lady in gray was assuredly not herself, though she would own up to the similarity of the "rather prominently arched nose and blue eyes."

By the time Mr. O'Hara was appealed to again the trail had grown cold. All that he could tell was that the young lady lived in Meeting Lane and—yes, brilliant remembrance on the part of Mr. O'Hara! she had a brother who worked in the Mercury office. It had been but a casual mention on her part, but Mr. O'Hara retained it.

There might be a half dozen brothers in the Mercury office whose sisters lived in Meeting Lane, but the right one was found at last and the directions obtained.

The young lady turned pale when she saw the two grave, business-like gentlemen. What could they want with her?

"Yes," she said, feeling relieved when she knew the nature of their errand, "I bought it. I was delighted when I found it. I was looking for something of the kind for a dear old uncle who fairly dotes on such things."

"Ah!" said Mr. Pentwick blandly, "then that which we seek is within reach. I suppose your uncle has not yet had the time to examine

it thoroughly?" looking at her anxiously.

"Very little, or that is so far as I know. I got it only this morning, as you are aware, and he was busy with other things."

"My dear Miss," said Mr. Pentwick, "we do not wish to disturb your uncle in the possession of his property, made so by your love and thoughtfulness," and Mr. Pentwick gave her a courtly bow, "but we wish to have the privilege of examining it for a few moments, for the purpose of recovering therefrom certain inclosures not known to be there at the time of sale, and which the one placing them there, since deceased, did not intend should remain. I assure you the property will in nowise be injured."

She looked perplexed but was evidently won by the appeal.

"I am sure there could be no objection to that," she said.

The countenances of the two worthy executors brightened. They had feared reluctance, even opposition.

"But I forgot," her manner excited. "It is not here. Why didn't I tell you sooner? Stupid of me I declare!"

"Not here?" repeated Mr. Pentwick in a dazed way.

"Not here?" echoed Mr. Palgrave.

"But it is assuredly near at hand?" questioned Mr. Pentwick, coming to himself.

"No, not exactly. You see, it is this way: I bought it for my uncle. He is a clergyman. His home is in the West. He has only been on a visit to us and—"

"Well?" Mr. Pentwick almost held his breath as he questioned.

"He started three hours ago on his return home."

"In what way?"

"By the stage, and—"

"Yes, my dear young lady, yes." Mr. Pentwick hadn't time for the sentence introduced by the "and." "Thanks for your kindness and patience. One more question please. Your uncle's name?"

"Daniel Calthorpe."

The two executors hastily bowed themselves out.

"To the livery, Palgrave, to the livery as fast as foot will carry us!" exclaimed Mr. Pentwick when they were on the street again. "We must have the two swiftest horses procurable."

But soon another perplexity presented itself. There were two stage routes to the West, the one by Monck's Corner, the other by Dorchester. Which way had the Rev. Daniel Calthorpe gone? To go by the office of each stage line would require an hour or more.

"We must appeal again to the niece," said Mr. Pentwick.

But the niece declared she really did not know. Exasperating loss of many minutes of precious time!

"Drive to Munn's Tavern," suggested Palgrave. "Both coaches stop there. We are armed now, fortunately, with a description of the reverend gentleman."

The clergyman was finally located in the coach going by Dorchester.

"Now for it!" cried Pentwick as he shook the reins over the backs of the horses.

It was now twenty minutes to two o'clock. The coach had started at ten.

"They can't go more than six miles an hour at best speed," declared Pentwick, "for we have heard they are well loaded. We ought to travel twice as fast at least. By half-past five at outside I think we can be having our interview with the Rev. Daniel Calthorpe."

"Suppose he enters serious objection?" said Palgrave.

"O I guess not, especially when he is assured that we mean no damage to his property."

At half-past four they were ten miles behind the Western coach.

"Tennet is certainly pushing his horses too tight," declared Pentwick, and somewhat irritably. "I shall make it a point to tell Vance about it. He loves his horses too well to keep such a driver in his service."

"Maybe the fault is with us," suggested Palgrave, "that we have not been making time as planned. I have noticed for some miles back that the chestnut was not traveling so freely."

"Doubtless that is what's the matter. Well, I don't want to hurt the horses, though the bay looks good for many miles yet."

Seven miles further on good news greeted them. They learned that the Western coach had broken down and had been considerably delayed. When at length they came in sight of it Pentwick could not restrain himself.

"Hello, driver," he shouted, "stop that coach!"

Tennet saw the two determined gentlemen in hot pursuit, and realizing the utter futility of an attempt to escape with his loaded team, at once gave warning to his passengers.

"Highwaymen, gentlemen, highwaymen! Save yourselves and your valuables!"

"Don't be a fool," said Pentwick as he came within speaking distance. "Calm yourself, Ike Tennet, and act the man. You assuredly know me, Pentwick of East Bay? O now I see you do. I have followed the coach solely on business, and that business is with an old gentleman within."

There were only six passengers besides the old clergyman, who was sitting on the back seat near the window, his right shoulder leaning toward it. His face was bent downward until only the top of his head was visible, and he was evidently so engrossed in what he was doing that he had not even heard the driver's alarm, nor noted the excited stir of the passengers about him.

"Don't be disturbed, gentlemen," said Pentwick suavely, as he opened the door of the coach. "I am no more a highwayman than any one of you. I am Pentwick of Pentwick and Palgrave, shipbuilders, East Bay, and I have come solely on a matter of business with this gentleman," indicating the clergyman as he spoke. "The Rev. Daniel Calthorpe, I believe?" giving that individual a gentle shake by way of attracting his attention.

At sound of his name and the touch of the hand upon his knee Mr. Calthorpe looked up inquiringly, inclining his body forward. As he did so some lettering on the back of that which had so engrossed him came plainly into view. They were four letters of a word. The letters were large and distinct, for they were in heavy black type. They were:

TILL—

"Mr. Calthorpe, excuse me," continued Mr. Pentwick, "your niece recently, nay, this very day, made for you a purchase which you value highly; indeed, that goes without saying as your present close attention to it indicates. Before it fell into the hands of your niece it was the property of one, now dead, who placed therein certain inclosures in keeping of others. The article was sold without this having been

discovered. The inclosures are now of the utmost value to their rightful owners. I desire the possession of them, and in doing so I assure you, sir, upon my word as a gentleman that no injury whatever will befall the article itself. Mr. Calthorpe, will you permit me?"

The clergyman looked at Mr. Pentwick as though measuring him. A moment passed, then, with a sigh, he placed his treasure in the outstretched palm.

"You have enjoyed it very much?" questioned Mr. Pentwick.

"Very!" with unmistakable emphasis.

"Been nearly through it?"

"More than half way."

"And found nothing?"

"Nothing, sir? What can you mean?" The old clergyman was evidently aroused now.

"Why, sir, are you so ignorant as not to know that those are the richest of their kind ever inclosed within binder's casket?"

"Till—at last!" cried Mr. Pentwick jubilantly as he came back to where Mr. Palgrave was holding the horses.

He tossed the article upward as he spoke. Two lines of lettering came clearly before Mr. Palgrave's eye, a longer one, with a shorter beneath. How plainly he could read them both!

"TILLOTSON'S SERMONS. Quarto-Sheep."

A moment later a sharp penknife was working industriously, though carefully, between lightly pasted leaves. When the task has been completed, across Palgrave's knee lay seventeen one thousand pound Bank of England notes.

The old clergyman received his book again with a clasp of delight. He never knew what had been within it, nor that he had read beyond ten at least of the pasted leaves without knowing it. So much for his comprehension of what was "In Till—"

JULES Verne has been married fifty-five years. Although he has, in his stories, allowed himself the wildest flights of fancy, he has always led the most quiet of lives and is now spending the evening of his days in Amiens, where he and his charming old wife are among the most prosperous and highly considered citizens of that famous place.

TINNED meats will keep sweet and good for many years. Mutton preserved in this way has been kept for forty-four years, and was found to be in good condition at the end of this time. The cans containing this meat were wrecked in 1824, and were cast ashore with other stores on the beach at Prince's Inlet. They were found by Sir John Ross eight years afterwards in good preservation, but were left there for sixteen years longer, exposed to all the changes of temperature which visit that shore—from 32 degrees below zero to 10 above. Then another ship visited the spot, found them and brought them to civilized lands again, where some of them are still kept as curiosities, and are sweet and good after the lapse of so many years, and after passing through so many vicissitudes.

A MATTER OF TASTE. If a man really prefers to wear a collar that cost 25 cts. or even 15 cts. and pays a laundry to transform it into a hideous thing of torment and tatters—why—he can do it of course. But think of it! A linen collar will stand the average laundry from one to three times. If it endures three times that makes it wearable four times in all. Suppose it costs 15 cts.—a low price—when new, the three launderings at 1 cts. each bring the cost of four times wearing to about 5 cts. a time. Meantime it has shrunk or stretched or acquired a saw tooth edge, or the button holes have torn out and much anguish of spirit has resulted. Four "Linen" collars would have looked as well, felt better and cost less and as much to say nothing of saving in trouble. "Linen" collars and cuffs are sold by leading dealers and are made by the Reversible Collar Co., of Boston, Mass.

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SEND NO MONEY send Free a sample of this beautiful Cheviot and our big book of cloth samples of other suits from \$6.95 up and overcoats from \$5.95 up, or send us your Height, Weight, Chest, Waist and Crotch measure with \$1.00 deposit and we'll express the suit to you C.O.D. subject to examination. Examine it carefully, try it on, see that it fits perfectly, then pay the express agent the balance (\$4.95), and expressage, only after you find it exactly as represented, a perfect fit and far better than others cost \$10.00 suits. Send today quick for suit or free sample book.

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F. J. Lawrence, of 435 Fourth Ave., Detroit, Mich., exchange editor on the *Evening News*, says: "I never really broke down while at this work, but one time I was in such a condition that my physician said I would have nervous prostration. I was in a bad way, my nerves seemed to give out and I could not sleep. I lost flesh and had a complication of ailments which baffled skillful medical treatment."

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From the *Evening News*, Detroit, Mich.

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Bessie Potter Vonnob is one of three or four women who have the honor of being members of the National Sculpture Society. Miss Potter's success was won through her ability to give an "up-to-date" catchiness to statuettes. These tiny portrait statuettes were bright, piquant reproductions of the friends who frequented her studio. The pose and dress were reproduced in the clay and the little gems were soon in demand. Not only were they popular with the public but also with the critics. They had all the freedom of line of a statue. Miss Potter was born in St. Louis. Her work as a sculptor began in Chicago. In that city her studio was the meeting place of all the literary and artist element. One of her most pleasing statuettes is Julia Marlowe in the character of Juliet. Miss Marlowe scratched her signature in the soft clay so that it is an autograph portrait done in marble. Miss Potter made such a financial success of the work that was begun simply for amusement that she was able to take a European tour. On her return she opened a studio in New York. Miss Potter's face is full of life, vivacity and expression. Many of the artists of Chicago painted her portrait. Mr. R. W. Vonnob the well-known portrait painter made many portraits of Miss Potter but the last one was of Mrs. Bessie Potter Vonnob.

Brigadier General King has gained promotion and honor for his bravery and daring in the Philippines. In spite of this he is best known to the American public as Capt. King the author of the popular military novels. "Between the Lines," "The General's Double," "Kittie's Conquest," "Winning His Spurs" and "A War-time Wooing," are among his most widely read books. Gen. King's career has been one of active adventures and stirring scenes. It is his custom to keep a series of note books that record the daily happenings of his eventful life. When a new story is under way, General King looks carefully through his note books. As a result his books have become noted for their careful accurate pictures of army life. He writes rapidly in a form of short hand invented by himself and then talks the story into a phonograph. A typewriter then follows the dictation of the phonograph and General King corrects the dictated manuscript. General King has won great financial and literary success through the work that he declares was undertaken to give an education to his sons and daughters. General King comes of good colonial stock; on one side he is a descendant of Rufus King and on the other side he claims John Eliot the famous apostle to the Indians as an ancestor. The General is now fifty-five years of age, but he is so alert in bearing that he seems at least a dozen years younger. When the Civil War broke out he was a lad of sixteen. He left school and enlisted. President Lincoln gave him a cadetship at West Point. He graduated with honor but remained at West Point until 1866, as instructor in artillery. Then followed active duty at various posts until he was assigned to staff duty in New Orleans. Here he won his wife and he declares that all his success since then has been won because he tried to make one woman happy. He has seen active service in the Indian campaigns. Trouble from a wound received on one of the expeditions finally led him to ask for retirement from the service. This was granted and he became instructor in the University of Wisconsin. In 1895, he was appointed Adjutant General of Wisconsin and did excellent work in increasing the efficiency of the militia of that state. In 1898 at the outbreak of hostilities with Spain he resumed active military service as a Brigadier General of Volunteers. March 1, 1899, he was raised to the rank of Major General for "energy, bravery and efficiency" during the



engagement with the Filipino insurgents on February 5, 1899.

New England has long been the literary center of the United States. Its children have spoken a message to the whole world. High on the roll of its literary workers stands the name of Louise Chandler Moulton. Her stories and poems have won her a place in the hearts of the people and sincere praise and appreciation from the most critical members of the world of letters. To please the great mass of humanity and the critical few is seldom the lot of writers. Louise Chandler grew up in a little Connecticut town. She was an only child, sensitive and imaginative, and trained in the stern faith of the Calvinistics. Novels, dancing, games were all considered worldly and irreligious. This somber background seemed to develop the child's love for all that was beautiful in the world about her. For nearly eight years she wrote verses and at last sent a poem to a paper in Norwich, Connecticut. She tells of the intense joy that came to her when she saw the verses in print—a joy that her after successes could not parallel. Once having tasted the pleasures of printer's ink the path seemed clear. Poems and sketches were published in various magazines. Her first book "This, That and the Other" was made up of these articles. Soon after the publication of this book, Mrs. Moulton attended Mrs. Willard's famous school at Troy, N. Y. During the year she became engaged to Mr. William Moulton the editor and publisher of a paper in Boston to which she had been a constant contributor. She was married a few weeks after leaving school. Her novel "Jim Clifford" was published the same year and was followed by "My Third Book." Mrs. Moulton proved that a literary woman may be a famous housekeeper. The well-known and touching poem "If I Could keep Her So" was written regarding a little golden haired girl who came to bless her home. Bedtime Stories, More Bedtime Stories, New Bedtime Stories, Firelight Stories and Stories Told at Twilight were inspired by the little daughter. In 1898 Mr. Moulton died. Mrs. Moulton's home in Boston is a center of social, artistic and literary life. Mrs. Moulton spends some time each year in London and her circle of friends there is distinguished and cosmopolitan. Mrs. Moulton has a charming personality and is often called a Southern woman. She has the soft slow speech and the languid manner of a woman of ease and luxury but back of it is the New England perseverance that has enabled her to do much severe literary work and to climb to success.

Sir Henry Irving is easily the first of living actors. His visits to this country are always marked by crowded houses and by the sight of long lines waiting for hours to buy tickets. His life story is one of effort but of effort crowned by artistic and financial success. As a child he was fond of recitation. Long before he had ever seen a theater he loved to declaim the ballad of Chevy Chase. When Irving was ten, his parents went to London, and for two years and a half he attended school. He did not lose his natural love for reciting and his most vivid remembrance of the school is associated with the entertainments where the pupils recited English classics. The boy was put into a commercial firm but found the tasks uncongenial. At this time he became a member of the City Elocution Class which was an association of young men with tastes similar to his own. The club gave many plays in Sussex Hall and young Irving thoroughly enjoyed the part he took in these amateur entertainments. His first visit to a theater was one of the most memorable experiences in his life. The intention to become an actor grew into certainty. When he was nineteen he began his stage career by playing a small part in Richelieu. For nine years he appeared in the Provinces, and during that period gave over 428 different parts. The amount of mental labor required to memorize that number of parts is simply prodigious. At the close of the period he was able to command seventeen dollars and a half a week and to feel that the salary represented fair progress. This was the school of hard experience that trained



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the foremost actor of this age. It was work and hardship and perseverance. Sir Henry Irving lately addressed the students at Harvard and his text was "Do, not dream." In 1866 Irving played his first London engagement. In the '70's, Irving raised a wild excitement in London over his interpretations of Shakespeare's leading characters. Many critics were against him and even the great daily papers had leading editorials on the topic. Irving finally succeeded in convincing even his most bitter critics that his interpretation, while departing far from old traditions, was true to art. Sir Henry Irving has been the manager of the Lyceum Theater for twenty-one years. Time and money have been lavished to make this theater perfect in all details. The large sums that Irving has received for his appearances outside of England have been spent upon this theater. Irving is beloved and respected by all who know him well. He has a large collection of theatrical prints said to be the finest in existence. He entertains liberally but the bulk of his capital has gone to make the Lyceum Theater what it is. He has played short engagements in America during this winter but his tour has been hurried as the duties of manager of the Lyceum Theater require his presence in London.

To be the author of a book of which over 3,000,000 copies have been sold is a remarkable thing. To be the author of a book that bids fair to work a social and religious reform is not less remarkable. Rev. Charles M. Sheldon has achieved the distinction through his book "In His Steps." The book has been translated into French, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and Italian. Rev. Mr. Sheldon is forty-two years of age. He was born in Wellsville, New York, but his father who was a clergyman moved to Dakota and it is the spirit and method of the West that has shaped Charles Sheldon's work. His education was obtained at the famous Phillips Academy, Brown University and



Andover. He spent some time in England and Scotland studying the life of the poorer people. His first charge was in Vermont. He was not content with the conservative methods of Christian workers and he at once began the work of getting in touch with his people, not alone through the pulpit but by personal contact with their daily lives. In 1888 he accepted a call to Topeka, Kansas. Here he pursued his idea of close personal knowledge of the people and their wants. He became a student at the college, he worked as a day laborer, he met the physicians and lawyers in their offices and he made it his business to have a knowledge of humanity gained from humanity and not from books. He took special interest in his work in the negro quarter of Topeka. Prizes were offered for the best kept lawns and houses and a free kindergarten was established through his efforts. In 1891 he began the plan of reading a chapter of a book to his congregation on Sunday evening. The chapter was written during the week. The first book that he read was called "Robert Bruce." It was followed in succession by Robert Hardy's Seven Days, The Twentieth Door, The Crucifixion of Philip Strong, John King's Question Class, His Brother's Keeper, and in 1896, In His Steps. Since this famous book he has written Malcolm Kirk, The Redemption of Freetown, One of the Two, The Miracle at Markham and For Christ and the Church. Each book has been read to his church congregation and the listeners have increased in number so that the church could be filled twice over. Mr. Sheldon has refused many tempting offers to lecture. He is not eloquent or attractive as a speaker but he possesses the unrivaled charm of intense sincerity. His sudden and world wide fame will not divert the man from the line of work he has mapped out for himself. He speaks at Christian Endeavor meetings and recently asked that the sum of \$1,000,000 be raised in order to support a daily Christian newspaper along the lines mapped out "In His Steps." The sum of his belief and teachings were summed up in these words spoken to the graduating class of Washburn College. "What we do in the world is not worth doing unless it is done to the glory of God."



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

GREAT and hidden are the dangers which beset the mariner sailing in unknown seas. The loss of the cruiser Charleston off the island of Luzon in the Philippines on Nov. 7th is an example of this truth. As the Charleston was sailing along that night on the regular patrol of the northern coast of Luzon, she ran upon an uncharted reef and immediately sank. The fore part of the vessel held close upon the reef, and the latter part filled and gradually sank. As usual in disasters to American ships, there was no panic in the crew, but on the contrary most remarkable discipline and presence of mind. While nearly everything on the ship was lost, not a single man was drowned but all quietly and in order escaped to the neighboring islands. A few days after the ship entirely disappeared, and it is supposed that her hold upon the reef under her bow lessened and that she slid off into deep water; thus every hope of saving her was abandoned. The Charleston was one of the oldest of the new navy ships, having been built in 1888. In 1889 she was commissioned as flagship in the Pacific squadron. She attained considerable celebrity during the time in which it seemed probable that we should have a war with Chili by running down the fast Chilean transport "Itata" which had coaled in one of the ports of California in defiance to our neutrality laws.

Two United States marshals, finding the "Itata" coaling, went aboard of her to protest and to stop the work. The captain of the transport immediately went to sea, taking the marshals with him. Difficult as the pursuit of a single vessel is upon the high seas, the Charleston effectually captured the "Itata" and brought her back to port. The relations between the two countries at the time became so strained that war seemed inevitable, but it will be remembered was averted by the common sense displayed by the people in both countries. The Charleston was a protected cruiser, 300 feet long and cost \$1,017,000. She carried a main battery of six six-inch guns and two eight-inch guns, and was equipped with four torpedo tubes. She carried a complement of a little over 300 men, and was considered an effective vessel of her class. A few years ago her loss would have been almost irreparable, but at the present time the United States has 13 of a similar class of ships in the new navy, and so rapid is the improvement in modern naval vessels that ships of the Charleston's make and class are fast becoming old-fashioned. She will undoubtedly be replaced with a new vessel of modern make by the present Congress.

Another addition to our navy is a sister ship of the Kearsarge which was illustrated last month. The Kentucky is a first class battleship built by the Newport News Shipbuilding Co., of Virginia; she recently had her official trial trip and maintained a sustained speed of over 17 knots, which is about 20 land miles, for four consecutive hours. The tide was against her, and when this is figured out she will undoubtedly attain even better record than the remarkable figure above given. Great as this performance is, it would undoubtedly have been still more remarkable had it not been that there was a northeast storm and high sea raging at the time which must have had some effect to prevent her attaining the highest possible figure. Her return cruise from the trial gave the highest record at a cruising speed. It is doubtful if in the navies of the world there are two fleetier or stronger fighting machines than these two ships which will soon be in commission in the navy.

As the month closes, the condition of affairs in the Philippines has changed remarkably from what it was six weeks ago. At that time the American people were worried at apparent inaction of Gen. Otis, and previous to the elections many were half-hearted in their support of the administration's policy in regard to the islands. The result of the elections wherever the question of the Philippine policy came up was so strong in favor of the administration that its effect must have been felt among the insurgents. At the same time a most vigorous advance on the part of the American troops under Gen. MacArthur and Gen. Lawton formed a cordon around the insurgent armies. The objective point at first was Tarlac, which was occupied as a capital by the insurgent government. This was one of the many capitals which have been invaded by American troops. Tarlac was taken without any real fighting although there were a series of skirmishes in which we lost some of our soldiers and valuable officers. Among the latter was Major Logan, a son of the late Gen. John A. Logan, and one of the most brilliant officers in the American army. He had won considerable distinction in the

Spanish war and still more in the Philippines. The whole nation sympathizes with Mrs. Gen. Logan who has lost an idolized son in his death.

The rainy season in the Philippines continued longer than was expected, and the roads even at present are almost impassable. Notwithstanding this fact, most rapid and determined advances and sweeping use of cavalry have been made and the insurgents scattered until at this writing it is but little more than a bandit or guerilla warfare. The Filipino Congress dissolved itself, many of its members surrendering to American authorities and others fleeing to the mountains, but with the general understanding it was never to meet again. The chief members of the cabinet were captured or surrendered, and at the time of this writing Aguinaldo with an army of 2000 men is in full retreat with his men disheartened and deserting at every turn. By the time this paper reaches its readers he will have been captured, or escaped through the lines which is much more probable, and made his way to some other land. In all probability he will reach Hong Kong where he is safe from extradition, and it is to be feared will remain a thorn in the American flesh for a long time. It will be remembered it was from Hong Kong that he plotted the last insurrection against the Spaniards after he had been sent there on his word of honor that he would not molest that nation, after his unsuccessful earlier insurrection.

The greatest praise is due to the earnest work of Generals MacArthur, Lawton and Wheeler, all of whom have shown great intelligence in the present campaign which is so full of successful results. Gen. Wheeler always commands the attention of the American public, and his recent public interview in which he called on Congress to immediately state in emphatic language that the Americans intended to hold the Philippines indefinitely, and that American law was to be maintained, has caused much comment. It is believed that this would be a wise step, in that it has been generally known and publicly stated that the insurgents were only held together by the idea that the retention of these islands by the Americans was generally unpopular in this country, and that should it be understood otherwise the insurgents would have no heart to continue their rebellion. The vigorous efforts of the Government in the tremendous increase of reinforcements evidently had its effect in disheartening the rebels.

The death of Vice President Hobart though not unexpected came suddenly and painlessly at last. President McKinley immediately issued a proclamation relative to it and flags were displayed at half-mast throughout the country. His funeral was attended by all the high dignitaries and foreign representatives and the high position he had won both as an official and as a private citizen was very manifest. His funeral was notable in one respect, being the occasion of lowering flags on almost every legation, a courtesy seldom extended to any public man.

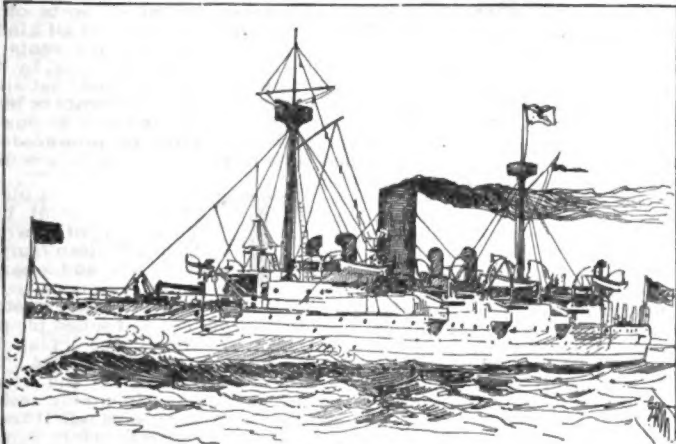
Mr. Hobart had been a very tactful man in the position he had held. The Vice Presidency is usually looked upon as a rather ornamental position in which a man may be conveniently shelved; but he made it an active and forceful part of the government and was something more than the usual figurehead. Being in full accord with the administration, he was able to aid and sustain it in legislation, constantly. It is unfortunately true that often the President and Vice President are chosen from opposite factions in the same party; and that, in consequence, their term of office is a state of armed neutrality, if not open warfare. In this case however entire harmony prevailed and was greatly to the interests of the country at large.

By Mr. Hobart's death, the President of the Senate, pro tem. Hon. William Pitt Frye, of Maine, becomes its presiding officer and practically acts as Vice President until March 4, 1901, when a new Vice President will take the oath of office. Mr. Frye has had long public service. He was in the Maine legislature and afterwards sent to Congress. In Maine it is a custom to keep men in Congress so long as they fill the responsible position with credit and as a consequence her delegation, being tried men, always has a strength and standing entirely disproportionate to their number.

In Mr. Frye's case the usual custom has been observed and after long service in the house, he was elevated to the national Senate, where he has served with great credit and distinction. He is a ready debater and one of the best speakers in America, being particularly forceful and popular on the stump. He recently was on



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—Editor Comfort.

the Peace Commission at Paris and aided in an early settlement of the Spanish war. In the Senate he later was instrumental in securing an early ratification of the peace treaty. He will be a tower of strength in the position and his ability as a presiding officer has been so fully demonstrated that there is no experiment in it.

Not only will the Senate in this Congress have a new presiding officer but the familiar form of Thomas B. Reed will no longer tower behind the Speaker's desk in the House of Representatives. For reasons personal to himself, Mr. Reed withdrew from public life on his return from a summer vacation in Europe, by resigning his seat. Several candidates for the Speakership immediately appeared, but the overwhelming strength developed by David B. Henderson of Iowa, made his nomination sure and all others withdrew leaving his nomination to be made by acclamation. Mr. Henderson is a good orator, a parliamentarian and a born diplomat. He will not have the same kind of a personality that distinguished Mr. Reed, but will be a popular presiding officer, while his long public services, which have been eminently successful, assure the country of a brilliant and elevating term in the office to which he has been chosen. Gen. Henderson has served a number of years in Congress and has held a distinguished and prominent position in the many questions of public policy which have arisen.

Unusual interest has developed among Americans over the South African war and the columns of our newspapers are loaded with telegrams relating to it. The fitting of a hospital ship by American ladies in London and naming her the *Maine* was a graceful act of sympathy. The firm stand the United States has taken with the Boer government which declined to have our American representative act in British interests shows that Uncle Sam knows his power and is no longer to be trifled with. In all cases of war the retiring ministers of the belligerent governments leave their interest in the hands of a neutral government minister. In the late Spanish war British representatives acted for us, while the French acted for Spain. Kruger's attempt to overthrow this established usage was short-lived.

The condition of affairs in Cuba is less pleasing than it has been. The President's message, which has been remarkably well received by both the nation and by congress, indicates the

immediate appointment of Gen. Wood as military governor of the island. The colored people are agitating immediate independence, while the property holders naturally want Federal supervision. Should these colored Marauders carry out any scheme of uprising, they will be taught the same lesson that the Filipino is learning of the difference between American and Spanish soldiers.

Our growing commerce and a balance of trade of \$600,000,000 in our favor indicates a season of wonderful prosperity. The growth of our Eastern trade has compelled our government to address a note to each foreign government claiming a "sphere" in China as to its inventions. The "zone of influence" policy of foreign nations is to grab a large portion of China and restricts foreign trade from that province to that one country. England and the United States both stand by the "open door" policy, meaning that every country shall have equal rights with every other country in trading in any part of China; and that existing trade treaties with the Celestial empire will be maintained everywhere in the kingdom.

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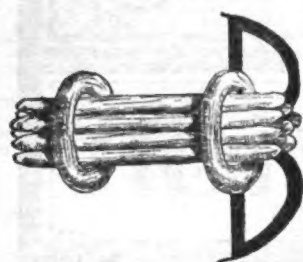
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give a recipe which makes two loaves of bread.

WHEAT BREAD.

Into a bowl put two cups boiling water or scalded milk and add two tablespoons sugar, one teaspoon salt, and, when liquid has become lukewarm, one yeast cake dissolved in one-half cup warm water. Mix in enough flour to make a stiff dough—about seven cups. Knead until the dough is elastic, cover and set to rise. When the dough has doubled its bulk knead slightly while still in the bowl. When again double in bulk, make into two loaves and set to rise in buttered pans; when it has risen the third time bake one hour.

If a brown, glossy crust is desired, brush over the top of each loaf, a short time before removing from the oven, a little sugar dissolved in milk, or the beaten yolk of an egg diluted with a little milk.

For a change once in a while have

ENTIRE WHEAT BREAD.

Put one tablespoon shortening, two tablespoons molasses and one and a half teaspoons salt into a mixing bowl; pour on one cup boiling water and one cup scalded milk; when lukewarm add one yeast cake dissolved in one-fourth cup warm water; then add flour, using one cup white flour and enough entire wheat to knead. After kneading put in a bowl, cover and set to rise. Shape in loaves, again let rise and bake in a hot oven about fifty minutes.

We give illustrations of various fancy rolls, which are made from what we call the

"DINNER ROLL MIXTURE."

Put one-fourth cup butter, two tablespoons sugar and one teaspoon salt in a bowl and pour on two cups scalded milk; when lukewarm add one yeast cake dissolved in one-fourth cup warm water, and three cups flour. Beat thor-

oughly, cover and let rise until light. Cut down and add flour enough to knead. Then let rise again, shape, place on buttered sheets, again let rise and bake in a hot oven about fifteen minutes.

If one is to give a course luncheon there may be two or more courses with which bread in some form should be served. It is a little more attractive and dainty if served in different shapes for the various courses, though all may be made from the same batch of dough. First there is the bread stick, which, when baked, is about six inches long and the size of one's finger. Then the Parker House and oyster roll, which should be made very small. The figure eight is simply a long, twisted piece, and the serpent is a long coiled piece, one end brought up through the middle to form the head. The braid is made by taking three long pieces and fastening them together and then braiding. It is easier to make a long braid and then cut it into smaller ones, say three inches in length.

PULLED BREAD.

Remove crusts from a fresh loaf of French bread—gash the loaf at the ends and pull apart into quarters, repeating the process until the pieces are the size of bread sticks. Put in a pan in oven to dry and then brown delicately. These may be kept in an air tight tin box for some time, and just before serving should be put into the oven to make them crisp.

Right here let me speak of the heavy crash which is now being extensively used for kneading bread, instead of the usual moulding board. It is considered much more healthful as it can be kept perfectly clean and so free from germs. It is simply a large piece of heavy crash, which has been washed and ironed and is spread directly upon the table; the flour is then sprinkled over it and the bread kneaded exactly as when the board is used.

For the soup course, serve the bread sticks, or Imperial Sticks, which are shown in our initial. These are made from stale bread, as follows:

IMPERIAL STICKS.

Cut stale bread into thin slices, remove the crusts and spread with butter and cut into one-third inch strips. Lay on a baking sheet

and bake until of a delicate brown. Cut also some rings, from the thin buttered slices of bread, and bake in the same way. Serve the rings with the sticks put through them, one or two rings with three or four of the sticks, to each person, either upon a small plate, or on a folded napkin.

Possibly a few other suggestions for using up stale bread may be acceptable.

TOMATO CREAM SOUP.

Scald one quart of milk with half an onion, into which stick four cloves; add a small piece of bay leaf, a little parsley and three-fourths cup of stale bread crumbs. Remove the seasoning and rub bread through a fine sieve. Cook two cups tomatoes with two teaspoons sugar for fifteen minutes, add one-fourth teaspoon soda, rub through sieve, and add to the bread and milk. Add five tablespoons butter in small pieces and season with salt and pepper.

The crumbs should first be taken from the inside of the loaf; then the soft sides of the crusts should be grated off by the use of a large grater. The crusts themselves should not be used. After the bread has been grated and rubbed as fine as possible, it should be put through a sieve, so that all the crumbs may be of a uniform size; it is then so fine that it thickens much the same as flour does, and yet gives a pleasant flavor to the soup.

EGGS ON TOAST.

Cut thin slices of stale bread, and from each slice cut a circular piece as large as possible without including the crusts. Saute in butter and place on a hot platter. Pour over the slices a white sauce, and arrange on each piece some chopped ham, the whites of eggs finely chopped and the yolks forced through a ricer. Garnish with parsley.

This makes a nice breakfast or luncheon dish. As the eggs are cold, it is necessary to set the platter into the oven for five minutes before putting on the parsley.

The white sauce is made of one and one-half tablespoons flour, two tablespoons butter, one-fourth teaspoon salt and one cup milk. The butter is melted and the flour rubbed in and then the hot milk is added. This is called a thin white sauce, and if a thick one is desired, the addition of another tablespoon of flour is all that is necessary.

To "saute" is simply to fry quickly.

ORANGE PUDDING.

Soak one and one-third cups stale bread crumbs in one cup of cold water for twenty minutes; add one cup sugar, one cup orange juice, one tablespoon lemon juice, two whole eggs and the yolk of another, slightly beaten, one tablespoon melted butter and one-fourth teaspoon salt. Bake in a buttered pudding dish in a slow oven until firm. Cool slightly and cover with a frosting made from the whites of two eggs, two tablespoons powdered sugar and one-fourth teaspoon orange extract.

Please bear in mind that all our measurements are level.

THE POTATO.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

WHEN Pizarro and his companions, while seeking for gold among the mountains of Peru, saw the Indians cultivating the plant known at first as the *Papas Peruanorum*, they certainly

did not suspect the importance of their discovery, nor the services which it was destined to render to mankind.

Admitted to the tables of the rich, under some one of the many disguises created by the inventive genius of culinary art, the potato appears in its primitive state at those of the poor, where served up in its "jacket," and with no other condiments than salt and hunger, it forms

only too often, the sole dish. But when, less than half a century ago, in that country which, more than any other, had relied on the potato as an article of food, a sudden blight destroyed in a few days the hopes of the husbandman, the wealthy, no less than the humble, felt the disaster, and the potato famine, by the bitter memories it left in the minds of the Irish people, and the impetus it gave to emigration, produced wide-spreading and untoward results, of which we do not as yet deserve the termination.

The first tubers known in Europe under the name of potatoes were of a different order of plants from those which now bear that name. It was during Magellan's journey round the world (1591-1522) that Pigafetta, an Italian naturalist who accompanied him, saw in Brazil, the Batata, or sweet potato. We do not, however, know if it was thence brought to Spain, or at a later period from Peru, but it was most probably the Spaniards and the Portuguese who introduced it into their colonies in the East, and it is now cultivated in India, China, Japan, the Southern States of the Union, and in Italy. In England, the trade with Spain made it known as an article of commerce under the names of "potades" or "potatoes," a corruption of the Spanish, and it seems to have been in demand for making conserves and sweetmeats. A little later, on the invasion of Peru, the Spaniards became acquainted with a root called "papa," resembling the batata, but of a hardier nature; and from the descriptions of it given by the historians of the Conquests, it seems to be what we now know as the potato. For centuries before the arrival of the Spaniards the Peruvian Incas had paid great attention to the development of agriculture, and as the "papa" formed the principal nutriment of

the inhabitants of the higher and colder regions, unsuited to the cultivation of maize or batatas, it must have been an object of special care, since the names of as many as eleven varieties are to be found in dictionaries of the Peruvian language.

Pedro de Cieza, a companion of Pizarro and Garcilaso de la Vega, the earliest writers who describe the "papa," state that the Indians crush the tubers to expel the water, then dry them in the sun, and thus prepare a food called Chuno, which can be preserved for a considerable time.

The exact date of the introduction of the potato into England, and the name of the person to whom the English owe it, are still matters of uncertainty. It has always been maintained that, in 1565 Sir John Hawkins brought the potato from Santa Fe, in Venezuela, and that Sir Walter Raleigh brought it into Ireland from Virginia in 1568. But the chronicler of Sir John Hawkins' travels merely states that at Santa Fe Indians came to them with potatoes and pineapples for sale; the word "potato" meaning at that time only the batata, which must have been already known as an article of commerce, while the tuber we now call the potato did not receive that name till many years later.

For many years the cultivation of the tuber made but little progress in the United Kingdom. In Scotland it became known in Kirkcudbright as late as 1725, in Stirlingshire in 1728, and in Forfarshire in 1730. It was not till 1740 that a season of peculiar severity gave the first impulse to the more extensive cultivation of a root which promised to be an effectual remedy against such a visitation. It was at that time, however, raised only by spade culture, which required more exertion than the slovenly farmers of those days cared to submit to and it was generally believed that it could be preserved only by being left in the earth where it grew. The potato, therefore, was not grown on an extensive scale and it was only about 1790, when farming had come to be better understood and practiced throughout Scotland, that its value was fully recognized and that it met with the attention it deserved.

The same want of appreciation of the potato long prevailed in England. In Lancashire, where it was probably brought from Ireland, it was planted in the fields in 1634, but it is only a little more than a hundred years since its cultivation became general. When Arthur Young made his tours through England, between 1767 and 1770, he found that in very extensive tracts of the country over which he traveled, potatoes were not a common article of culture; but that in the north more farmers grew them than in the south or east. In France Turgot was the first to point out its utility, during a famine which occurred while he was *Intendant* of Limousin, between 1761 and 1773 and he had at first great difficulty in conquering the prejudices of the people, who only consented to make use of it after *M. l'Intendant* had had it served up at his own table. The efforts of Antoine Parmentier in the same direction were more successful. His attention was first drawn to the cultivation of the potato by the prize offered in 1771 by the Academy of Besancon for the discovery of alimentary substance which might compensate for the deficiency of corn at a time of scarcity. He gained the prize by an essay, in which he demonstrated the nutritious qualities of the starch contained in many plants, and obtained from the Government leave to sow with potatoes fifty-four acres of a sterile tract near Versailles. At first the incredulous public laughed at the seemingly hopeless undertaking, but, when the plants grew up, Parmentier presented a bouquet of the flowers to Louis XVI. The King, who had always been favorably inclined towards Parmentier, accepted them willingly, and appeared in public wearing them in his button-hole. The patronage of Royalty rendered the plant at once fashionable; the prejudices existing against it disappeared and the government was enabled to spread its culture throughout the Provinces.

Toward the close of the eighteenth century it was extensively cultivated throughout Germany, but it was only after the wars of Napoleon that it began to be used for the production of the potato-spirit, which now forms such an important branch of German commerce.

The potato disease was first observed in 1764 and during sixty or seventy years it ravaged districts situated in widely separated countries.

A STRINGENT FOOD LAW.

The law enacted by the Missouri legislature, which prohibits the manufacture or sale of any article intended for food or to be used in the preparation of food, which contains alum, arsenic, ammonia, etc., places that state in the advance in the matter of sanitary legislation.

Laws restricting the use of alum in bread have been in force in England, Germany and France for many years. In this country, in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and several other states, direct legislation in reference to the sale of alum baking powders has also been effected. In several of these states their sale is prohibited unless they are branded to show that they contain alum, and in the District of Columbia, under the laws of Congress, the sale of bread containing alum has been made illegal.

Following are the names of some of the brands of baking powder which are shown by recent analysis to contain alum. House-keepers and grocers should cut the list out and keep it for reference:

Baking Powders Containing Alum:

DAVIS' O. K.,	..... Contain Alum.
DRY YEAST,	..... Contain Alum.
R. B. Davis & Co., New York.	
CALUMET,	..... Contain Alum.
Calumet Baking Powder Co., Chicago.	
GRAND UNION,	..... Contain Alum.
Grand Union Tea Co., New York.	
BON BON,	..... Contain Alum.
HOTEL,	..... Contain Alum.
Grant Chemical Co., Chicago.	
GOOD LUCK,	..... Contain Alum.
Southern Mfg. Co., Richmond.	
EGG,	..... Contain Alum.
Egg Baking Powder Co., New York.	
A. & P.,	..... Contain Alum.
Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., New York.	
K. C.,	..... Contain Alum.
I. C.,	..... Contain Alum.
Jaques Mfg. Co., Chicago.	
CROWN,	..... Contain Alum.
J. P. Dieter Co., Chicago.	
KENTON,	..... Contain Alum.
Potter-Parlin Co., Cincinnati.	
DELICATESSE,	..... Contain Alum.
Delicatessen Baking Powder Co., New York.	

In addition to these, many grocers sell what they call their own private or special brands. These powders are put up for the grocer, and his name put upon the labels by manufacturers of alum powders. The manufacturers, it is said, find their efforts to market their goods in this way greatly aided by the ambition of the grocer to sell a powder with his own name upon the label, especially as he can make an abnormal profit upon it. Many grocers, doubtless, do not know that the powders they are thus pushing are alum powders, the sale of which would be a misdemeanor under the law referred to.

It is quite impossible to give the names of all the alum baking powders. They are constantly appearing in all sorts of disguises, under different names and at all kinds of prices, even as low as five and ten cents a pound. They can be avoided, however, by the housekeeper who will bear in mind that all baking powders sold at twenty-five cents or less per pound are liable to contain alum, as pure cream of tartar powders cannot be produced at anything like this price.

TAKE care of the old newspapers, for they are useful in many things. They will polish window-glasses and they will clean lamp chimneys, they will test and clean flatirons, they make excellent covers for pantry shelves, they protect the kitchen table from hot and soiled pie plates, they cover clean clothes on the drying horse to protect them from flies and dust. They are a great moth preventive, too, and articles packed away for the summer in closely sealed bags of newspaper, are sure to be safe if they were properly aired and brushed before being packed. Bags made of old newspapers are excellent, too, for keeping herbs and seeds.

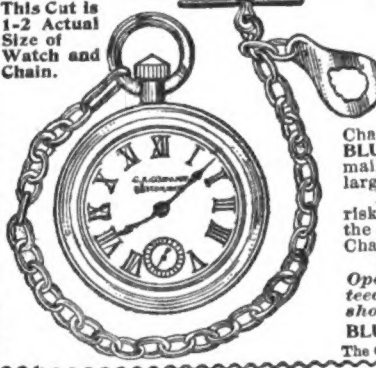
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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

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1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
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3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
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Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new subscriber into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this prize offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

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DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Happy New Year to you all, dear friends. Here is 1900 with us at last. How bright and hopeful it spreads out before us!

How much it promises in the way of peace, prosperity and happiness! We have no war on our hands, if we except that in the Philippines; business is active everywhere, and for pleasure there is the Paris exposition. What more can we ask?—except that we use our blessings rightly and make the most we can of them both for ourselves and for others.

Our first letter this month takes us away from the howling storms of the north into the sunny state of Louisiana, and shows us the old city of New Orleans in her many aspects.

"Aunt Minerva suggests that some one who has 'been and done' it should furnish a brief sketch of New Orleans and the old French Market. But what pen can paint an adequate picture of that queer, sunny old town, with her antique buildings, lovely parks, canals of black waters, statues, banks of roses, laden orange trees, stately palaces and filthy hovels, flocks of goats, geese, cattle, and horses grazing on the lush swamps sandwiched between suburban homes, her wharves with ships of all nations, steamers, large and small, craft of all kinds. The customs and costumes of half the nations of the earth mix and mingle on her streets. There goes a Mexican with jeweled sombrero, pausing to sample the wares of a small, brown lad who cries with shrill voice: 'Hot Tomatoes! Chili-conchón!' And here, down the middle of the street, passes a sailor's funeral party—sailors in full dress uniform forming a hollow square made by grasping



THE OLD FRENCH MARKET, NEW ORLEANS.

ing a rope, within which is carried the corpse—the whole preceded by a band, whose music is indeed 'grand, gloomy and peculiar' to an American ear. "The city, built on a thin crust over the swampy, crescent-shaped peninsula, is lower than the river, and a visitor goes to bed with a creepy, uncomfortable fear that the mighty yellow flood of the formidable Mississippi will burst its bounds and engulf the whole city. But the natives laugh at such a suggestion, and only pause for a moment to exclaim with astonishment when a big slice of earth crumbles away from the insidious inroads of the dangerous waters. The cemeteries are deservedly famous as being the most unique in America, the dead being 'buried' above ground. The slime-covered gutters, the pools reeking with decaying vegetation seem to offer an open invitation to yellow fever and cholera.

"We explored the French Market, where everything under the sun is offered for sale in every patois imaginable, including the Choctaw, in which a withered squaw with a bright-eyed pappoose tied to her back, hawked her beaded things and eagle feathers. We went for a Sunday 'fish-breakfast' at a French restaurant in the rambling old market. We explored the old French quarter, once the haunt of the 'haute ton' but now quaint and ancient enough. We were shown the house where Lafitte, the pirate, lived, loved, was married and died the conventional 'death in bed', so little to be expected of a daredevil like he was. The old Cathedral of St. Louis, full of wonders and storied interest—the shrines, the cemeteries, Custom-house, Mint, etc., claim one's attention, and the sight-seeing is incomplete till one visits the jetties, the Gulf, Chalmette, and the two most noted pleasure resorts—West End and Spanish Fort, where one's first exclamation is: 'Arcadia! pure and simple!' But the exquisite flowers, the fountains filled with gold and scarlet fish, the maze or labyrinth composed of jessamine hedge, the moss-draped live-oaks, the ponds of huge alligators, swings for children, all outdoor appliances for innocent pleasure, disguise but fail to conceal the real nature of the place.

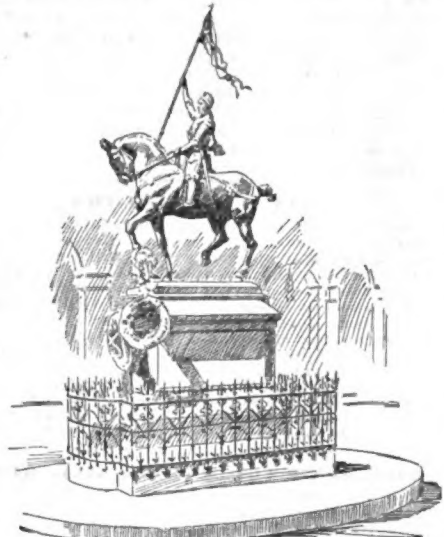
Gambling in every form, billiards, cards, games of all sorts go on all day Sunday. New Orleans is said by those capable of judging to be more like old-world cities than any other in America."

ROSE LANE BROWN, Athens, Tennessee.

As a general thing we like to confine our letters to those dealing with our own country, its wonders, its inventions and its industries; but this year when so many are going abroad, it will be well for us to wander a little also and we will begin by taking a peep at the old town of Rouen, France, and the monument there erected to Joan of Arc.

"While on my way from Paris to the seaport Dieppe to cross the English Channel we stopped off for a day in Rouen, one of the oldest and most historic of the cities of France. It existed in the days of Julius Caesar and later on was the capital of Normandy and the home of William the Conqueror.

"But the city of Rouen is especially interesting to the traveler for its connection with the life of



MONUMENT OF JOAN OF ARC, ROUEN, FRANCE.

Joan of Arc. It was here that the poor, unfortunate Maid of Orleans was brought after having been captured by the English, and where she was finally burned at the stake. The city of Rouen was at that time (1431) a British possession. There is now to be seen the remains of a tower of an old castle in which Joan was imprisoned, tried and put to the rack. The tower is called after her name. In the square near by is a statue of this remarkable heroine erected on the very spot, it is said, where she met her tragic death.

"Not far from here can be seen an ancient bell tower (Grosse Horloge), built in 1389. In this tower, in olden time, hung the curfew bell which was rung for fifteen minutes every evening to remind the inhabitants that it was time to turn in, and woe to him who did not heed its warning. He was either thrashed by the watch or robbed by the thieves. One of the most beautiful Gothic cathedrals in all Europe is at Rouen. It was built in the thirteenth century, and has twenty-five chapels and numerous monuments. Henry the Second is buried here, also the heart of Richard Coeur de Lion. One of the towers of the cathedral, called the 'Butter tower' (Tour de Buerre), takes its name from the fact that it was erected by means of the money paid by people for permission to eat butter during Lent. The church of Saint Ouen, not far from the cathedral, is another magnificent specimen of Gothic architecture.

"Many of the streets of Rouen are well and regularly built with fine modern stone houses, and picturesque streets and squares, with tall, quaintly carved, wooden-bound and gabled houses. Some of the streets are very narrow, so narrow that you can stand in the middle of them and reaching out touch houses on either side. As we wandered about here looking at the ancient houses, we could easily believe ourselves transported back a few hundred years. But we were suddenly made to realize that we were living in the every-day nineteenth century, for right above our heads, decorating one of the oldest of the buildings, we spied in plain English the advertisement of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup! We left Rouen feeling that no matter how far we might travel in foreign parts we could never get away from enterprising America."

ELIZABETH WOOD, Batavia, N. Y.

Let people say what they will of the beauties and wonders of foreign lands, yet I cannot help feeling that our own country is the best and the most beautiful of them all, and so let us come back to it and visit one of its historic bits of scenery as described in the next letter.

"One of the most romantic and historic spots in Illinois is Starved Rock, around which many events of interest have taken place since first visited by white men. In September, 1673, Marquette, Joliet, five oarsmen and two Indian interpreters sailed up the Illinois river, being the first time a white man had ever seen the waters of the 'Lone and sluggish Illinois'.

"The first use made of the Rock was by La Salle, who, with Tonti, came to this section in 1679, and resolved to build a fort on 'Le Rocher' as he named it. He and Tonti spent some time at the 'great town' of the Illini Indians situated about one mile west of the Rock on the north bank of the river.

"The French, at that time, intended to build a chain of forts from Canada to Louisiana and found a mighty empire in the Mississippi valley and La Salle intended the fort at 'Le Rocher' to be one of the principal forts in the chain. In December, 1682, the French soldiers dragged the logs up the steep sides of 'Le Rocher' and constructed Fort St. Louis on its summit. Shortly after La Salle returned to France and never returned to this region, as he was assassinated while on an expedition in Texas. Tonti remained in command, but the forces and defenses melted away and in 1700 all that remained was a few stakes of the stockade.

"About the year 1770 occurred the melancholy event which gave to the cliff its present name. During a council of war, Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, but holding great power over the Pottawatomies, was killed by an Illini brave. The Pottawatomies determined to destroy the Illini, who fled to the cliff now called 'Starved Rock,' and the Pottawatomies camped below to starve them out, and after weary days of watching, succeeded; the ill-fated



STARVED ROCK.

Indians plunging headlong down among the enemy, one after another, singing the death song. A

small remnant which tried to escape was massacred without mercy.

"Starved Rock' is on the south bank of the Illinois river in La Salle county, and upon the river front it rises one hundred and fifty-seven feet above the river. It is nearly circular in form with a level top containing half an acre. A deep gorge on the east, a valley on the south and west isolates it from neighboring bluffs, and its summit can only be reached by climbing up a series of ledges on the south side. Geologists assert that the valley of the Illinois was once the bed of a mighty prehistoric flood which has left its action on the soft sandstone in this valley, and that 'Starved Rock' is a monument of that grinding and buffeting flood."

A. W. TAYLOR, Mt. Sterling, Ill.

Our next letter, on the Catlin Coal Mines, is, I suspect, written by one of my juvenile nephews; but, as his letter is well written it shall have a place among the rest. He says:

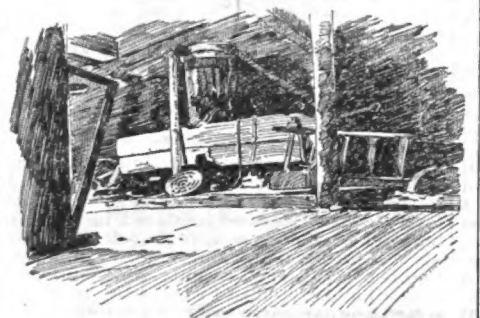
"Over the hole through which the coal is hoisted out there is a kind of scaffold which the cage runs up and down. On the north side there is a pair of scales and the coal is dumped into this by means of a self-dumping cage. By the side of the scales stands a man who takes down the weight of the cars of coal and then dumps them into the shaker screen which separates the slack from the nut coal. Both slack and nut coal are dumped into flat cars and hauled away. On the south side is a large brick building inside of which is the engine which hoists the coal. Now we will go into the mine. The cage gives the engineer three bells and the cage is lowered to the ground landing. As it sinks with you you feel as if you were falling. Now we are at the bottom, and you may take your choice as to whether you will walk or ride. Suppose we ride. We enter the car, the driver cracks his whip and off start the mules down the path. Here we are at the working part of the mines. Men are busy getting out the coal by means of picks or loading it on cars like that in which we rode."

OSCAR PATI, Vandercook, Ill.

Now we have a "tale of the Spanish war," which war has not yet, I take it, lost its interest for my readers.

"Among the many relics of our late war there are none which attract so much attention or which so impress one with the destructiveness of modern warfare as the ex-Spanish cruiser, Reina Mercedes. This ship arrived at Old Point Comfort on the ninth of May, and after remaining there in quarantine for a week was brought directly to the navy yard at Portsmouth, Virginia.

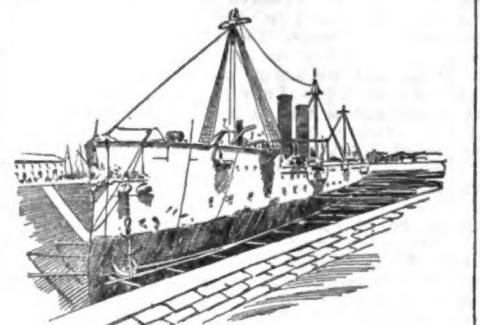
"The cruiser is now in the dry dock undergoing temporary repairs; after which she will be sent to Portsmouth, N. H., where she will probably be used as a receiving ship. Her hull is staunch, but her decks and machinery are so badly wrecked from shells and rust that to put her in fighting trim would cost more money than our Government feels justified in expending. At first sight of the ship one is surprised at her old and battle-scarred appearance. Her hull is pierced in many places with great, jagged rents, which have been patched



WRECKED DECK OF THE MERCEDES.

with iron plates, and altogether one might imagine her to be a relic of the Civil war or a veteran of many naval fights.

"On going aboard one gains a better idea of the damage sustained. The starboard side of the bridge was struck and wrecked by a shell which also killed ten men on the gun deck below. On this deck the funnels and ventilators are pierced in many places; the large smokestack has a hole nearly a yard square, here are numberless smaller ones; and on every side are marks of shot and shell. The berth deck sustained the worst handling, and it is here that the force and accuracy of our guns is best indicated. A twelve inch shell came through the thick plates near aft, cutting through them as if they were nothing more than paper, then plunging its way through six or eight iron beams an inch or more in thickness, and curving slightly downward exploded in the dynamo, leaving it a mass of wreckage. Another shell came through in this vicinity, cutting the large mast in two and continuing through the opposite side leaving a rent large enough to admit a man's body. A large piece of one of these shells has since been found weighing fifty pounds. The floor of this deck is torn up for a considerable distance and



REINA MERCEDES.

everything presents the appearance of having been the target for a withering and well directed fire."

ASHBY WATKINS, Portsmouth, Va.

Now we will take a little trip to stern New England, but we will forget that she is at the present moment locked in ice and snow, and will try to view her in her summer aspects, as we read the following letter.

"Old Orchard Beach is one of the principal seaside resorts of the country, situated on the shores of the eastern part of Maine, and Casco Bay. The facilities for bathing here are exceedingly good, and the beach, which has a long, hard, level margin of sand at low tide, making a delightful spot for ball games, bicycle riding, croquet, and other pastimes, is of course, the principal attraction. Not very many pretty things were to be found on these sands of the sea. I could see nothing except the ubiquitous clam shell, sand dollar, (so called) star fish, sea weed and sea moss.

"Everybody who goes to Old Orchard takes a walk on the steel pier which is well worth inspection. It is said to be over two thousand feet long, and one hundred and twenty-five feet wide, and is protected by a stout railing. At the ocean end is a pretty casino where one may buy almost anything in the way of eatables, soda and souvenirs, and be entertained with band concerts. A train of miniature cars runs the length of this pier. This train is not so small, however, but that it will accommodate thirty two adults. Each car is an open seat, and will serve but one person. The train is drawn by a cunning little engine which boasts of a startling little whistle and a musical little bell.

"The steam cars take one from Old Orchard to the large city of Portland, twelve miles away, and to its fascinating harbor attractions, and both

steam cars and electrics run to the interesting towns of Saco and Biddeford. Saco river is separated from the ocean by an enormous stone breakwater, against which the breakers dash defiantly. Biddeford Pool, situated near, is only saved from being romantic by its abundant supply of lobsters. The pool itself is a bit treacherous and fascinating.

"I cannot close this article without reference to the unique little peanutena team, which in summer was seen daily at Old Orchard. The body of this conveyance, which was highly polished, resembled a peanut, placed horizontally on wheels, and had a compartment in the back, containing a confection called peanutena, which was offered for sale. Above this body was a high seat, on which sat a pretty little girl, about seven years of age, fancifully dressed, and skillfully driving tandem two little donkeys wearing fine apparel and tinkling bells."

G. H. LOWELL, Newport, N. H.

Our cousin, Beulah Keller, sends us a description of her home which makes me wish it were summer, so that I might travel there and get a drink from the cool "poplar spring." She says:

"About fifty or sixty years ago when this land was all in woods there were very few people settled in the country around. The main road ran through here and close to the road stood two large poplar trees between which was a strong spring of the best water in the country. This being before the railroad was built through here large droves of cattle were often driven through from one place to another. They always made this one of their watering stations. The man who then owned the land, cleared a portion which was close to the road, and built there, over the spring, a large log house, three stories in height. Here he kept a tavern and post office and also a small grocery. The place was called Poplar Spring, by which name it is still known.

"Then a wealthy man bought the farm, tore down the old house and built upon its site a large brick house which contains, besides its many rooms above ground, four cellars. One of these, containing the spring, is called the dairy cellar, and is six feet deep. There are two other springs in the cellars and two long trenches. These are all dug from the solid rock, and all the cellars have cemented floors. The water is very cool and refreshing, and in the driest weather is of great abundance. One of the cellars is very dark, there being but one door. This cellar is used for keeping fruit in the winter, as it is impossible for fruit to freeze in the dark cellar.

"There are two outside buildings, also of brick, one being the smoke house and the other a store house for wood and coal. All are surrounded by brick pavements."

BEULAH KELLER, Cameron, West Va.

And now my space is full and I must reluctantly adjourn the meeting and bid my nieces and nephews good-by for a season.

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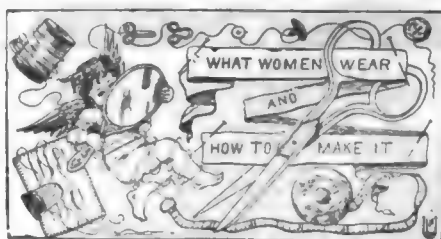
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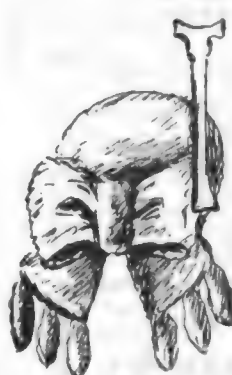
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Fit were not for the ingenious brains of a few clever designers I wonder what Dame Fashion would do? Probably be reduced to following one mode as in the days of our great-grandmothers and really it would be a blessing to three-fourths of womankind. The most startling new thing in the realm of dress is the eel skirt. So-called because of its fish-like shape, following as it does every line of the form as closely as possible, to within a few inches of the feet where a decided flare is arranged, with considerable train at the center of the back. Understand, there is no vestige of a ripple or fold of fullness at either side or back, indeed it is a mystery how one walks in the skirt, and, in point of fact it has made a new gait necessary, a sort of glide quite fascinating to behold, and perfectly in harmony with the snake-like appearance of the skirt.

The first skirt of this sort I saw was worn by an actress; one whose gowns are always Parisienne and whose good taste is unquestionable. The skirt was composed entirely of white sequins overlapping each other like the scales of a fish and mounted on a white silk material as elastic as rubber; at the foot it widens perceptibly into quite a frou-frou showing underneath masses of chiffon and net set on in flounces and platings.

Over this was worn a redingote of black guipure lace reaching to the knees at the front and ending in the train at the back. The use of pleats in the skirt is becoming more and more usual without becoming at all common. One of the newest models has the entire skirt laid in narrow side pleats in clusters of three, all around the skirt, each pleat stitched flatly as far as the knees, where they were allowed to assume their natural fullness. In spite of all that has been said against it, this style skirt is destined to be a feature among new ideas.

An exceedingly swell gown I have in mind is made of soft violet wool, the skirt side pleated, each pleat stitched in long points to within a quarter of a yard of the foot, where the flare begins. The bodice is round, and carries out the side-pleated effect, each pleat stitched to match the skirt and apparently fastened in place by a cluster of tiny jeweled buttons. There are tiny revers of a paler shade of violet velour, opening over a guimpe of white mousseline de sole shirred so finely as to make it a question how it was accomplished. The collar is a mixture of the velour, mousseline de sole and narrow black velvet. The sleeves are remarkably dainty, the only trimming being of course at the hand. The sleeve proper ends abruptly within four inches of the wrist, and is finished with a small, pointed cuff of velour. From under this comes a snug sleeve of the shirred white stuff with tiny frills about the hand edged with black velvet.

The shops are filled with all sorts of wonderful new things in the way of outer garments, most of which are, however, regulated to carriage wear because of their unusual elaborateness. The raglan is an especially graceful garment and has no fitting seam whatever except a graceful curve under the arm. The most expensive of these are built of fur, with

enhanced with trimmings of flowers, lace, or plumage just like any other hat. It goes without saying that any girl of commonplace beauty would be transformed into a queen in such a rig. Then there are raglans of cloth; beautiful shades of palest gray and biscuit in Meltons and Kerseys, some with tailor-stitched finishings (and these are the most possible for street wear), while the more elegant ones have decorations of velvet, lace, or fur as the case may be.

From the raglan to the new-market is only a step, and this latter garment is now very much favored. In the sketch is shown a new model built of slate gray Melton, fitting easily at the back, and loosely at the front. The shawl collar is trimmed with a band of the cloth stitched as is the rest of the coat.

A cute little coat adapted to smart wear, is displayed here also. It is made of black velvet with no back seams, and is set off by the odd collar of white broadcloth (the hip pieces and cuffs matching), stitched with white silk. The rolling collar has a facing of ermine.

A word about housegowns would probably not be amiss just now. I saw such a sweet, simple thing which might be copied in any material or color without being expensive. The material was dead white mohair, very silky and fine. The narrow skirt had an attached flounce headed with a thick cord of the material. This was worn in drop-skirt fashion over a petticoat of pale violet silk which did service for several gowns made in that way. The round bodice was in Spencer fashion brought with a very slight fullness into a crushed belt of white taffeta fastened simply at the front by a small rosette. A tiny guimpe of lace showed at the throat with the stock of the same, wired to stand up properly, and bound at the top with black velvet. The army sleeves were set off by a tiny drooping cuff of lace with the velvet binding.

I might, with profit, tell you how a girl I know is fixing over an old plaid dress, the material of which was good, but the design entirely out of date. The skirt which was plain, and much fuller than is worn now, was cut over after a sheath model and cut off just below the knees, where a circular flounce of plain material of the color predominating in the plaid was put on. The old plaid waist was used as a foundation, for warmth as much as anything, and had a smart little vest of white broadcloth set on, overlapped by crossed bands of narrow black velvet ribbon, the pointed ends fastened by tiny steel ornaments.

A short Eton of the plain stuff was worn over this, the sleeves small and plain and long over the hand. It had a tiny coat collar and revers and, with its rows of even stitching, had a genuine tailored air. With it was worn a small soft toque of velvet to match, with an edging of fur and a quill at the side. Such a smart ball frock as has just been finished, and before it was packed away in its swathings of tissue paper, I was allowed a peep at its daintiness. All white, a dead white, too, unrelieved by so much as a touch of color. The foundation was dead white satin. The skirt very sheath-like and clinging, with decided frou-frou at the feet; over this a soft fall of creamy white chiffon, accordion plaited; and over all this the outside skirt of white Brussels net laid in fine perpendicular tucks, an enormous amount of stuff employed in its makeup. On the satin underskirt was set flounce after flounce of pleated net and chiffon, so that at every step of the wearer billows of frothy white could be seen. The tiny bodice was of the tucked net over thin stuffs like the skirt and was cut from shoulder to shoulder, with a flat decoration of beautiful lace on its edge, the pattern brought out in heavy white cord. Over the shoulders are twisted ribbons of white velvet while this same velvet is made into rose-like rosettes in a festoon beginning at the left shoulder, crossing the bust to the waist where a twist of velvet finishes it. It is all very simple but is very deceptive as to its real cost. It could be successfully copied in black, with the velvet trimmings of any color desired.

Women who suffer with ailments peculiar to their sex, from stooping shoulders, weak back and general ill-health or lack of strength and vitality, will be interested in the advertisement of "The Natural Body Brace" in another column. Husbands and friends of such women will be interested in it also. The company's high standing and pleasing business methods are vouched for by the leading banks throughout the country and by many thousands of customers. Satisfaction is guaranteed by the fact that the full purchase price is refunded to anyone not pleased after 30 days' trial. The brace is comfortable and invigorating. It brings light step, graceful figure, and good health. It enables weakly women to walk, work, ride a wheel or play tennis or golf, with ease and pleasure. It is free from all the objectionable features of other supports and treatments. It does away with pessaries. We suggest that you read the advertisement and write at once for free book and full particulars.

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A DUCK ROAST.



RS. Lancaster wanted a "Duck Roast," and so she told her butcher one morning. He affably agreed to furnish it by three o'clock, but all the time he was making the promise he kept thinking, "What in the name of time is a 'Duck Roast?'"

He had no idea, but he went to all the down town meat markets; to all the restaurants; and to all the hotels, but in vain. No one had even heard of a "Duck Roast." "Well," quoth Butcher May, "Mrs. Lancaster has heard of one, and she is one of my best customers and she must have it."

He sat down and thought and thought and thought again and to some purpose too, for springing up, he cut a large loin of beef, (she had told him this much, that it was a beef roast), took out the bone and by dint of cutting, shaping, using skewers and by tying, he made a very good imitation of a duck. Being well satisfied with his progress, he then took a knuckle bone from a mutton and painted it in imitation of a duck's head and neck, and fastened it in place securely; then standing off and viewing it critically, he chuckled "Well, Mrs. Lancaster will have her 'Duck Roast,' and in time, too."

He delivered it personally, explaining to her how to garnish it after it was roasted. Mrs. Lancaster was delighted and Butcher May has done a thriving business in "Duck Roasts" as well as in other meats since. So much for ingenuity.

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The designs we give in this outfit cannot be duplicated in any art store for less than \$5. This is fact, not fiction. The Outfit contains all the following designs:

- 1 Chinese Alphabet, 2x2 in. high.
- 1 Eccentric Alphabet, 1 1/4 in. high.
- 1 Floral and bow-knot design—Violets, for sofa pillow covers or table cover decorations, buffet scarfs, etc., 13x13 in.
- 1 Spray violets for dollys, 4x7 in.
- 1 Conventional design for jewel work, for square dollys or scarf ends, 4x8 in.
- 1 Conventional design for Bulgarian work, for scarf ends, or dolly corners, 4x8 in.
- 1 design for medicine glass cover, with dial, 3x3 in.
- 1 border design of bow-knots, 1 1/4 in. wide.
- 1 Border design for flannel embroidery, 1 in. wide.
- 1 Empire design for picture frame, 6x8 1/2 inches.
- 1 design for book mark, 3 1/4 x 3 1/4 inches.
- 1 design for tobacco pouch.
- 1 Border and corner design, Oriental, for table cover or lambrequin, etc., 7x7 inches.
- 1 design for lamp shade, Butterfly.
- 1 design, Tiger Lily, 6 1/2 x 10 inches.
- 1 Scallop border for flannel work, 1/4 in. wide.
- 1 Empire corner design, with Fleur de Lis, 9x9 inches.
- 1 design for delf work, 2 1/2 x 3 inches.
- 1 Wreath and bow-knot design for monogram, 3 1/4 x 4 inches.
- 1 Spray of Mignonette, 6x6 inches.
- 1 Spray Lily of the valley, 2 1/2 x 3 inches.
- 1 Empire design for twin picture frames, 10x12 inches.
- 1 Lily of the valley and bow-knot design, 15x15 in.
- 1 design for penwiper with motto, 4x7 inches.
- 1 Floral spray for tea cloth or center piece, dollys, 6x8 1/2 inches.
- 1 Dog's head for art work, 1 1/4 x 2 inches.
- 1 design of Mountain pine, with motto (see illustration), 11x11 inches.
- 1 design American flags, 7x7 inches.
- 1 design Poppies and leaves, 4x10 inches.
- 1 design for picture frame, American flags, etc. (see illustration), 8x10 inches.
- 1 Ribbon and floral design for monogram, 2x8 1/2 in.
- 1 design Nasturtium, 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches.
- 1 Conventional design for art work, 4x5 inches.
- 1 Conventional corner design, for table covers, etc., 9x9 inches.
- 1 Patriotic design for sofa pillow, American and Cuban flags, knapsacks and guns, 16x16 inches.
- 1 Set of six dolly designs, conventional patterns, 4x4 inches.
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- 1 Acorn design for scatter work.
- 1 Ribbon and Daisy design, 4x5 inches.
- 1 Conventional corner design 8x8 inches.
- 1 Floral and bow-knot dolly design, 5x5 inches.

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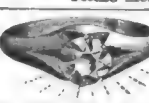
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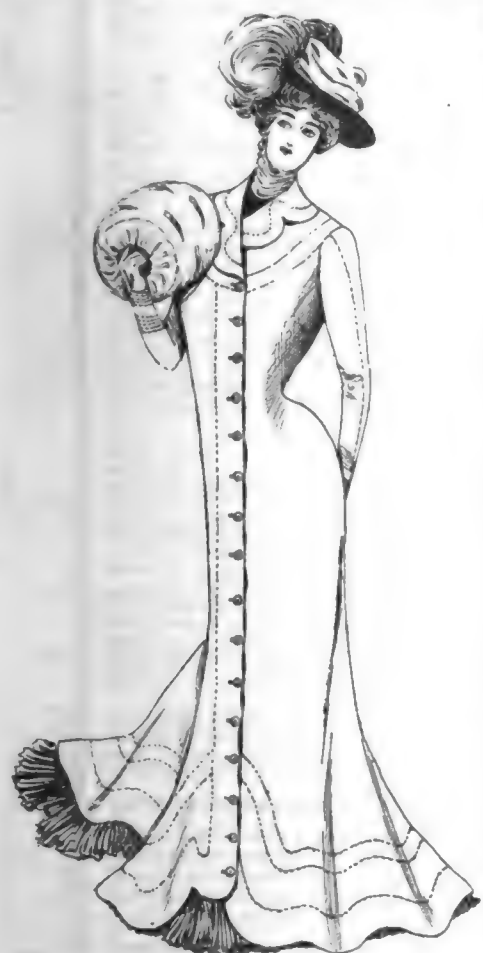
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1900 has many proud distinctions over its sister years. Among them is the fact that it can be expressed in fewer Roman numerals than any year of the last hundred. M. C. M. it reads. For the first time the Roman numerals have the advantage of brevity.

The American nation has one marked peculiarity. It really can't live up to the idea of a hero. In fact when it makes popular heroes of the men who have done great deeds it becomes so hysterical and exclamatory that the reaction is inevitable. It has followed in every case of hero worship. Admiral Dewey took the matter too seriously when a noisy storm of protest arose on his transference of his gift house to his wife. We certainly can not criticize the French for their fickle ways when we give such an exhibition. Back of all the noise is the sober sense of the nation that is not noisy with praise or hysterical with blame. That element has supported the Admiral.

New Year resolutions seem part of a past system. The restless modern is not much given to self examination. He does not search his own soul for lapses in thought or his actions for failures in word or deed. Consequently he has little use for celebrating the New Year by any reform resolutions. He prefers to make vague general promises of improvement and to ignore special instances. Washington's Rules for conduct show the searching self criticism of an earlier generation. We of these later days don't promise much to ourselves and so are spared any feeling of condemnation by failure. New Year resolutions certainly must be good resolutions but the modern unregenerate takes few of such passing contracts. We are satisfied to allow the place nameless to ears polite to keep the pavement it acquired during the years when human nature was more morbidly conscientious.

We have "fin-de-siecle'd" so much that we have worn out the idea before the fact arrived. It has come at last 1900. The year's end always makes a momentary pause even in the rush and sweep of modern life. We have a moment of "hind sight" and another moment of "fore sight" and then the present with its insistent, persistent clamor shuts out the past and leaves no moment of speculation as to the future. When the end of the year and the end of the century come together it cannot be lightly passed. The changes that the century has wrought make even the most careless thoughtful. Pages could hardly outline the political, social and scientific development of the century. The greatest political change has been the death of absolute rule and the growth of representative government. Even the least optimistic person must feel that the world has grown better. The privilege of witnessing the close of a century comes but once in a lifetime and to but few people. The New Year issues on the Twentieth Century. Hail and farewell!

The Department of Labor has recently published a report containing a list of 1300 women's clubs. The names furnish an interesting study and some throw light upon the object of the club. In other cases the names are veritable puzzles. Five languages have been searched for appellations for the clubs—English, American, Indian, Latin, French and Greek. Philistinism may seem an imposing name but one has an awestruck feeling when he realizes that the fearful and wonderful com-

bination means philosophy, literature, science, music and art. Certainly no "pent up Utica" restrains the powers of that club. Among the peculiar names are Olla Podrida, Tekeosnoon, Old Maids Social Club, La Coterie, the U & I Club, Emitté Lucem Tuam, Ossoli, Wirson, Hypatia, and Igrasil. Over the Tea Cups is a favorite name and the glories of Sorosis repeat themselves even to the wilds of Skowhegan. The Sphinx and the Entre Nous convey a suggestion of secrecy that ill accords with the popular conception of women's weak point. One club evidently gave up the task of searching for a cognomen and indicated their frame of mind by calling their club the "What's In a Name" Club. At least half of the thirteen hundred names depart from the beaten track of the "Woman's Club of Blankville" and ransack five languages for significant titles. The purposes and papers of these clubs seem serious and learned enough to dismay any really frivolous person who may have associated tea, tattle and tating with any gathering of women. But the inclinations to coquette with the muses in a distinctly feminine fashion is shown in the names.

The science of electricity is, comparatively speaking, in its infancy. It has opened a new field of work and the positions calling for expert labor are highly paid. It is estimated that at least fifty women in the United States have taken courses in electricity and a fair proportion of women are earning a good livelihood, either as practical electricians or as lecturers or teachers of the subject. In the manufacture of the tiny filament used in electric light bulbs, women are conceded to be the best workers. They have a lightness and deftness of touch that fits them for the work. Hundreds of women are employed in these factories. The field for women in the lines of electricity requiring expert knowledge is a broad one. In proportion to the numbers who have made a special study of the science the percent. of actual business success is very high. In fact the results show that it is a more promising field than law, theology or even medicine. One of the five examiners in the electrical department of the patent office is a woman. The largest number of inventions by women are in the line of medical electricity. Some of the physicians who have made the greatest success of electrical treatment are women. The field is certainly widening, the few who have entered it have won more than average success. There is a fascination in the study, a practical and immediate financial return for expert knowledge and opportunity to pursue the study at Universities and technical schools. It is far more practical than many of the fields which women are striving to enter. All in all, the woman in search of a vocation may fare worse than to turn her attention to this wonderful science.

Queen Victoria has presented 100,000 pounds of chocolate to her soldiers in South Africa. This fact has been the cause of much merriment especially to the French newspaper people. There is an historical significance in the act that is lost to the average observer. It shows the wide gulf between the position of an English sovereign to-day and the time when the King led his troops to battle while his crown trembled in the balance. Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen, rode before her army who were mustered to repel the attack of the Spanish. She exhorted them to fight and cried, "I have the heart of a King and of a King of England, too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain or any prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm." George II. was the last English king who personally led his troops in battle. In the War of the Austrian Succession or King George's War, as it was called in this country, he led the English at the great battle of Dettingen. Here he dismounted from his horse and waving his sword cried: "Come boys, now behave like men and the French will soon run." Those times and that spirit seem far separated from modern ways. The spirit is really the same, however, as the one that prompts the English Queen to make her gift of chocolate. It is the substance rather than the spirit of the gift that awakens mirth. It would seem that Queen Victoria might be familiar with a scene in a modern play where a fugitive soldier takes refuge in a house and is found eagerly devouring chocolate creams. He declares that they are the best campaign ration for a soldier as chocolate will support life longer than any other food. Whether it be philosophy or philanthropy the soldiers have their chocolate and the public has had its fun.

There are few topics that furnish a wider field for theory than does the topic of the nutritive value of foods. After centuries of medical investigation we are not yet sure whether man flourishes best on a meat or a vegetable diet, whether coffee, tea, tobacco or alcoholic beverages are really harmful or just what elements and what proportions are most conducive to perfect health. We have a scientific assertion to one effect from some authority only to find it contradicted by another. Average humanity goes calmly, placidly on eating everything that comes in its way without the slightest regard to "what's in it." Nature seems to have fitted man out with the possibility of adapting himself to everything in the food line except the want of it. The latest turn that discussion has taken is not the theory of "what to eat" but the practice of not eating at all. The reform began first by the strenuous advocacy of the practice of going without breakfast. We were ill because we ate too much, said these reformers. Breakfast was accordingly stricken from the list. The excitement over a breakfastless condition of existence lapsed when suddenly some of the city papers commenced a protest against the lunch habit. Lunch was an unnecessary evil, the system did not require the food and it took much valuable time. People would be healthier and richer if they omitted the midday lunch. Then came the attack on the dinner at six o'clock. We can imagine the consternation of an earnest seeker after truth and health who endeavored to follow the advice of all these people until he found himself breakfastless, dinnerless and supperless. His only hope lies in the adoption of some of the concentrated foods. Science is determined to do away with eating as a function and the food of the future will contain all the necessary elements to nourish the human mechanism but it will take

the form of pellets or tablets. One of these may be quickly swallowed and the machine will have been fed so it can run. Eating as a function will entirely disappear. No more shall we hear of the "festive board" or of after dinner speakers. No one can be inspired to eloquence merely by bolting a tablet. The labor of the world will be lessened more than half. No dishes to wash, no marketing to do, the year's food supply can be purchased in a moment and the tablets dealt out to each person. The advocates of concentrated food are quite as scientific as the advocates of no food at all. Average humanity will doubtless continue to "eat to live," the few will still "live to eat," and the vegetarian, the fruit-and-nut diet people and the people who don't believe in any diet at all will still argue. It is doubtless well to direct popular attention to the topic, but the scientific side is yet to be solved and the "theories" only furnish fresh opportunity to people who cultivate fads.

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No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.
165	American Liberty March	236	Across the Bridge
101	Amiens Abroad, March—Two Step	27	Annie's Love, Duet for Sop. and Ten.
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	27	Ave Maria, From a Valleria Rusticana Mascagni
181	Auld Lang Syne, Variations	140	Beacon Light of Home
187	Austrian Song, Op. 89, 1	34	Beautiful Moonlight, Duet
215	Battle of Waterloo, Descriptive	238	Bells of Seville
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz, 4 hands	162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltz	226	Blue Eyes
68	Bells of Cornville, Potpourri	246	Boys' Hood Days, Chorus
213	Black Hawk Waltz	200	Bridge of Love, Words by Longfellow
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret? Estabrooke
199	Boston Commandery March	122	Changeless
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	214	Childhood's Happy Hours
229	Bryan and Sewall March	138	Christmas Carol
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	90	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls Schumann
134	Catherine Waltzes	168	Con's Breach of Promise, Cake walk
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz, 4 hands	92	Cow Bells, The, Boyhood's Recollection
145	Chyron (Adjutant) March—Two Step	176	Darling Nellie Gray
217	Cleveland's March	70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old
87	Coming from the Races Galop	128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight, Temp.
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	64	Easter Eve
41	Crack Four March	220	Ever Sweet Is Thy Memory
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	19	'E Danno Where 'E Are, Comic
235	Day Dawn Polka	172	Etienne, Waltz song
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphant March	180	Far Away
183	Edouard Triumphant March	187	Farmer is Drinking Again, Temperance
121	Electric Light Galop	126	Far from the Hearthstone
91	Estrella, Air de Ballet, Very fine	152	Flag of Our Country, Patriotic
107	Ethel Polka	156	Flag, The, Quartette
155	Evergreen Waltz	144	Flinging in the Starlight
232	Faded and Faded, Selections	136	Florence, Waltz Song
77	Fifth Nocturne	138	For a Dream's Sake
233	Fighting in the Starlight, Waltz	36	For the Colors, Patriotic
239	Flower Song, Op. 39	66	For You We are Praying at Home
97	Fresh Life	166	From our Home the Loved are Going
177	From the Frogs, The Song	107	God Bless My Kind Old Mother
49	Full of Ginger, March Galop	178	Golden Moon
183	Golden Rain, Nocturne	204	Gypsy Countess, Duet
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	198	Heart of My Heart
53	Greeting of Spring, Op. 21	124	Happy Days, Happy Days
187	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	124	Happy Days, Happy Days
173	Hobson of the Merrimack Waltzes	74	In Sweet September
139	Home, Sweet Home, Transcription	248	In Shadowland
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	188	In the Starlight, Duet
183	Jenny Lind polka, Four hands	28	Juanita, Ballad
157	Last Hope, Meditation	242	Kathleen Mavourneen
193	Leap Year Schottische	93	Killarney
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye
249	Lohengrin, Selections	130	Kiss that bound my heart to thine
141	London March—Two Step	164	Lullaby Waltz
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	146	Little Boy Mine, Solo or Duet
43	March on the Waves	154	Little Voices at the Door
240	Martha Selections	98	Lost Chord, The
207	May Breezes, Four hands	106	Lottie Bell
225	McKinley and Hobart March	40	Love Ever Faithful
85	Memorial Day March	176	My Little Nellie Dwyer
181	Monastery Bell, Nocturne	25	Marlene, Do you think of me now? Estabrooke
89	Morning Dew, Op. 18	234	Margaretta
61	Morning Star Waltz	112	Maria's Sleeping in de Churchyard
201	Music Box, The, Caprice	230	Memories of my Mother, Chorus
137	My Love Polka	102	Mission of a Rose, The Song
125	My Old Kentucky Home, Variations	82	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)
175	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	172	Mother's Welcome at the Door
123	Nightingale's Trill, Op. 81	222	Musical Dialogue, Duet
171	Old Flocks at Home, Transcription	232	Must the Sweetest Thing that binds
219	Old Flocks at Home, The, Variations	116	My Little Lost Irene
219	On the Wave Waltz	170	My Old Kentucky Home
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea, Two-step	216	Oh, Slug Again that Gentle Strain
245	Orvetta Waltz	228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)
9	Our Little Agnes, Waltz	60	Old Ragtime
191	Over the Waves, Waltz	102	Old Ragtime
127	Please Be Wary, Waltz	104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River
167	Red, White and Blue Forever, March	90	On the Beach, Most beautiful Ballad
143	Richmond March—two-step	160	Outcast, An, Character Song
245	Rustle Waltz	174	Parted from our Dear Ones
127	Sailing the Seas, Idylle	108	Picture of My Mother, The
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	148	Poor Girl didn't know, Comic
149	Salem Witches March—Two-step	56	Precious Treasure, Song and Dance
189	Schubert's Serenade, Transcription	136	Request, Sacred
161	Silvery Waves, Variations	208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep
169	Smith's (General) March	142	Rosemond
169	Song of the Voyager	80	See Those Living Pictures
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	194	She Sleeps among the Daisies
181	Storm, The, Imitation of Nature	124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening
73	Storm, Mazurka	210	St. Patrick's Day, The
100	Sultan's Band March	120	Storm at Sea, Descriptive
209	Sweet Long Ago, Transcription	10	Sweetest Song, The
118	Tornado Galop	37	Sweet Long Ago, The
103	Trifet's Grand March, Op. 182	43	That Word was Hope, Waltz Song
223	Twilight Echoes, Song without words	118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds
169	Under the Double Eagle March	108	There's Sure to be a Way
229	Venetian Waltz	158	Thinking of Home and Mother
205	Village Parade Quickstep	116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Admiring
7	Visions of Light, Waltz	108	Turn softly the Angels are calling
203	Warblings at Eve	38	True to the Last
93	Waves of the Ocean March	64	Wear of Ray, The, Old English Song
93	Wedding March	62	Your Mother's Love for You
85	Winsome Grace, A perfect gem	84	What are the Wild Waves Saying?
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	58	When the Roses are Blooming Again
105	Zephyr Waltz	88	When Winter Days Have Gone

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WORDS BY C. R.

MUSIC BY R. C. GARLAND.

PIANO.

I love but thee, my own, My thoughts are all of thee, My heart be- longs to thee a- lone;

Oh, wilt thou say, "I love but thee?" Thy vis- ion gloom dis- pels; Thine eyes do haunt me still. . . . Oh, darl- - - ing,

say thou wilt be mine! Joy- ous my heart is, Hope fills my soul, Kind heav'n has

led me nigh un- to love's goal. . . An- swer but yes, love, Hap- py will I be; yet if thine

an- swer be . . . er a- el no, I love but thee. . . .

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PADEREWSKI'S HAND SHAKE.

The return of Ignace Paderewski for a season's tour in America makes everything told of the great pianist of double interest. COMFORT remembers hearing a well-known musical critic telling of meeting him at a dinner given in one of our great centers; and on being asked what impressed him most about the artist, replied it was his handshake.

"Why," said he, "to shake hands with him is an experience one never forgets, I don't mean on account of the distinguished honor, but because of the tremendous impression of actual power one gets. I can't remember that I ever shook hands with a man having such a grip. You feel as if your hand were in a double-levered press and it will bring tears to your eyes."

"While we were talking over the success of the evening a reporter came in and Paderewski, in the height of an enthusiastic burst, seized his hand from above in a quick, nervous grasp

like the spring of a trap. As he poured into the journalist's ear a few words of excited thanks for something he had written he proceeded to turn on the pressure.

"The long, white slender fingers were like the lips of a vise while through them shot a pressure only to be likened to the charging of a wire with electricity of many meters force and rushing down into his finger tips. Thus he cordially shook the crushed and limp hand of the writer, who stood unconsciously writhing in pain, while the player turned on alternating currents by way of emphasizing his rapidly articulated words.

"Why, his hands are as muscular as a prize-fighter's. He shakes hands with the same nerve and force as he plays any of his musical gems. There is nervous force, tenacity, energy and grip in him if his handshake is anything to be guided by."

The long winter evenings are with us once more and again the piano and organ are doing their share of the work in entertaining. Don't

bore your friends and neighbors with the worn and hackneyed pieces which our grandfathers enjoyed, but play and sing the latest and best compositions. The place to get the latest, best and most popular is through the wonderful music offer COMFORT makes every reader on another page. Turn to it now while you think of it.

The Passing of the Coon Song.

As has often been pointed out in the musical department of COMFORT, the conditions and environments often cause an epoch of music and songs of a distinct character, be it gloomy or gay. The civil war was the greatest producer of sentimental music we have ever had in America, and it was a lack of inspiration in the musical line that caused many people to consider the late Spanish war merely one of commercial interest and not a sentimental matter. In England there is to-day an outburst of patriotic music caused by the Boer war, which has scarcely ever been equalled in history.

This thought is caused by the wave of popularity which has existed since the introduction of "coon" songs in America. These old darky songs and lullabys were first made really popular by that gifted actress, May Irwin, whose instant and continued success in a white-faced portrayal and imitation of the lusty, healthy darkey wench has done more to make this style music popular than anything else. Of late we have had a surfeit of coon song and what is called "rag time" music. All being either negro melody or imitations of it, generally in two-step time. But after a while too much sweet will cloy and it is evident that the coon song has had its day. From the day when every music store window held nothing but cartoon music pages of cake walks and negro dudes, we are coming to a line of more dignified and artistic music.

The new sentimental songs written more in accord with our old ideas of merit and sentiment are coming back and the day of the coon and the cake is slowly and surely drawing to a close. Popular as this style music has been it is doubtful if any of it will be long remembered.



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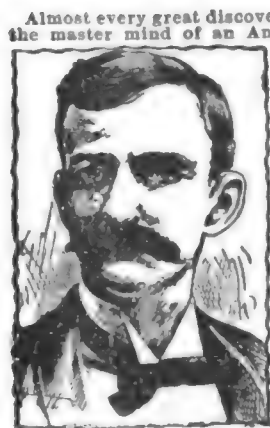
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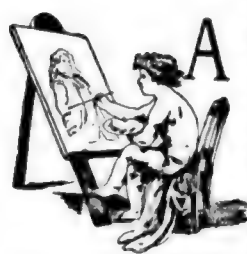
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PROF. WELTMER.

Art Training in the Public Schools.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Almost every great discovery owes its origin to the master mind of an American citizen. The curing of disease, which has attracted the attention of more great minds than any other profession, has at last been placed into the domain of an exact science. All diseases can now be cured without aid of drugs or the surgeon's knife through a method of magnetic healing originated by that eminent scientist, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, of Nevada, Mo. Just pause for a moment and grasp the enormity of this grand discovery. Think of the thousands of our noble women who have suffered the tortures and agonies of female troubles, who could get neither relief nor

cure from the medical profession. These great sufferers can now be cured and brought back into their health which will permit them to enjoy life; and then, again, think of the legion of men who have become weak and debilitated through early indiscretions, overwork and dissipation, and who have taken gallons of obnoxious drugs with no cure in sight; they can now look up with hope in their eyes, for there is a positive and permanent cure for them in this efficacious method of Magnetic Healing known as Weltmerism. The arch-enemy of mankind—disease—has at last found its master, for Weltmerism, in a perfectly natural manner, goes to the very seat of the trouble, and it can positively be stated that this wonderful discovery will cure all diseases, no matter what the nature or of how long standing. More than 100,000 men and women who have been cured of every disease known through Weltmerism are positive evidence that dispels further doubt. Weltmerism does not only cure those cases that go to Nevada for treatment, but through the method known as the Absent Treatment it cures at a distance just as readily. The American School of Magnetic Healing has received thousands upon thousands of letters from men and women who have been cured by this New Science, and who thought it was their duty to testify the fact of their cure for the benefit of human beings that are suffering. We are

The constant referring of all points of uncertainty to the standard of truth, must in time have its influence upon the character of the child, as well as upon his drawing.

The lessons in the lower grades are all made pleasure lessons, all technical terms being eliminated. By the time the fourth grade is reached the children are taught to use their pencils in determining relative proportions and perspective, by holding the pencil at a distance from the eye. But the term perspective is seldom if ever used, even then.

In the seventh and eighth grades simple landscapes are drawn, and the children are taught where to place the horizon line. Some exercises in designing are also given. This much for the work of the various grades, which of course is a modification of the general plan, according to the age and advancement of the children dealt with.

The general outline of work for a single year for the older students deals with Egyptian ornament. The history of Egyptian art is studied, and the symbolism of the figures employed. All the work in historic ornament for the year refers to and deals with that of the Egyptians. Another year Greek art is studied; and by this means the various art periods are kept distinct in the pupil's mind, and his appreciation of what is really good in art is wonderfully strengthened.

During the child's study of historic ornament, and of the different schools of art, it is possible for the parents to be of the greatest assistance, by reading and studying with him at home along the same line, getting books from the library, and visiting art galleries.

Throughout the work the teacher seeks to strengthen and stimulate the pupil's interest, and also to bring out the educative thought which is back of every drawing lesson given. The success of the lesson, in its broadest sense, must depend in a marked degree upon the teacher. The drawing teachers go from school to school, visiting each as often as time will permit. The lessons between these visits are given by the regular teacher of the room, and as a consequence there is a wide difference in the results attained, for some teachers are enthusiastic about the drawing while others look upon it as a task, in which they have little natural interest.

It is not expected that the new system of drawing will make artists of all the children, any more than it is expected that all will be professional mathematicians, but it gives to many an added means of expression which they will enjoy all through life, and it develops the hidden talent of those who are naturally gifted.

Nor is this all. If the standard of art in our own country is raised, it will be as the result of a deeper and more intelligent appreciation of art upon the part of the general public, and nowhere can such an appreciation be better implanted than in the minds of the school children of the present day.

To this end much is being done in the schools to foster a love of art in the children, aside from the work of the drawing teachers.

In some of our leading cities there are School Art Leagues, for the furtherance of the art interests of the pupils of the schools, and in other cities where no such League exists the teachers of drawing, aided by the principals of the schools, clubs and any others who are interested, take active measures for providing the schools of the city with works of art.

Good pictures are selected and are placed upon the walls. Objects of art, such as casts, bas relief, also help to arouse the art instincts of the child. Some of these are contributed by artists and private individuals but more of them are given by the children themselves. In Minneapolis one of the local papers has a department for the children in which prizes are offered to those presenting the best papers on given topics. These prizes, during the school year, consist of pictures, not for the individual child but for the school room in which the child belongs at the time of writing. The enthusiasm which this plan has aroused among the children of the city is of the heartiest nature, and a great many pictures have been won in this way. In some schools the children earn money by putting yards to rights, selling old rubbers, bottles, or paper rags, and putting the money thus earned into a fund for their school. Entertainments are also given for the purpose of raising funds, and twice a year envelopes are circulated among the school children into which voluntary offerings for a piano and picture fund are placed.

In these and various other ways the pictures and objects of art accumulate, and while the children enjoy them, they are also educated by them and given a broader culture. The custom of presenting class memorials has also been a means of enriching the art collections of the schools. This applies more particularly to the high schools, but is being adopted to some extent by the highest class of the grammar schools upon its graduation. Many of these memorials take the form of pictures and statuary, and are very valuable. Only pictures of real artistic merit are placed

permitted to publish a few of these testimonials.

T. T. Rodes, of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney for Monroe County, suffered for years from Sciatic Rheumatism; tried everything without benefit; was instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mr. Rodes has recently won fame as the attorney in the celebrated Jester case. Mrs. C. R. Graham, of Boise City, Iowa, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hands to her head; she paid out \$3,000 with doctors before coming to Nevada; she now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen, of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form; she could not sleep without the aid of morphine; tried everything without relief; fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. E. Alford, of Rubens, Jewell Co., Kan., suffered for three years with Kidney and Stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities, but was told that his case was hopeless; took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment, and in the three days was cured. Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton; after taking gallons of obnoxious medicines, without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds. Mr. G. W. Hightower, Tiff City, Mo., was a total wreck; suffered many years with stomach, liver and kindred troubles; tried everything without relief; fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered with eczema, indigestion and other troubles; dozens of doctors failed to give any relief; she was permanently restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method in two months. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive, free of charge, The Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever made.

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upon the school walls and it is a matter of surprise to many to find that the children enjoy the class of pictures shown. It is a mistake to suppose that children can only appreciate juveniles or showy pictures. Among those which the children themselves have chosen are pictures by Raphael, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Millet, Corot, Van Dyke, Rosa Bonheur, Breton, Mme. Le Brun, and many others of equal rank. Children love the pictures of the Madonna; the peasant scenes of Millet; and appreciate to a greater extent than would be believed, the classic reproductions.

In some of our cities art exhibits are held at the close of the school year, in which both the work of the scholars themselves is shown, and the art treasures of the schools as well. Such an exhibition is usually made free, as its chief object is educative, and its aim is to reach as large a number as possible. The exhibit broadens and stimulates the art interest of the children who visit it, and it also awakens a spirit of co-operation upon the part of the parents. To many of them it is a revelation.

Another class to whom such an exhibit is of very real value, are the teachers from smaller towns and country schools who visit the cities in the summer. The display opens their eyes to new possibilities for their own school, and so the influence widens.

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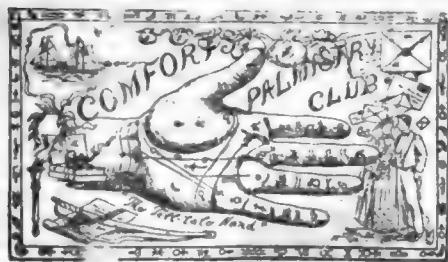
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To introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every home, we will send free with each chart the "GREAT ALBUM OF SONGS" containing 184 Songs with words and music, including the great New York hit, "Dear Old New Hampshire Blue," "Ma Sugar Babe," "Goon Song," "If Mother Were Only Here," "For the Flag I Die," "Dear Mother, all new, as well as all the favorite old ones, such as "Molly Bawn," "Annie Laurie," "I Cannot Sing The Old Song," "Blue Bells of Scotland," "Battle Cry of Freedom," "There Auld Lang Syne," etc., etc. **PRICE OF CHARTS ALONE \$1.00.** These charts were sold for \$1.00 each, but having contracted for half a million of them we got them at a lower rate and are going to give the Great Album of Songs with each chart and have them sold for 25 cents. In order that you can get one of these Complete Outfits of Charts and Book of Songs to use and show to your friends and otherwise popularize them, we will send Free one complete Set of Eight large Charts, each 5x18 inches, and the Album of 184 Songs to all who send only 10 cents for a Six Months' subscription to "Comfort." As this offer is limited you must take advantage of it quick, as it is held open for a few weeks only. You can easily sell the outfit for 25c, the money you show quick. Address, **COMFORT CHART ROOM, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and name de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to Comfort Palmist Club, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Plaster is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be used, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

As there are several hands to be read this month I must leave the questions to go over until another time. The first belongs to "Resigned." This shows the hand of a good business man with instincts for money getting and one who will be successful in the long run, although he may meet with some discouragements at first. His life line is a double one all the way indicating a long life with comparatively good health and strong constitution, but toward the end there are several fine lines rising from it showing that specially good luck has attended his efforts, although early in life he was bound down and had rather a hard time getting started. There was some disappointment with regard to affections at about the age of twenty or a little later, but from about twenty-five on his life is very successful and he gets what he wants. I do not think he marries until he is thirty-five or more. There seems to be no particular reason why he should take the nom de plume of "Resigned" as far as I can see. His hand indicates good fortune and success after the first twenty-five years. He will make a good husband and father and a good citizen in every way.

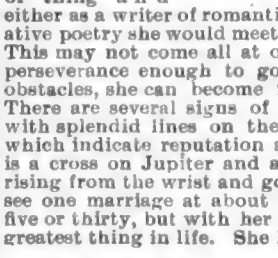
"Loyal" has a hand that shows refinement and a gentle disposition with love of music, flowers and all beautiful things. She has an open, frank, generous nature with a great deal of tact in dealing with others which makes her many friends. She has the courage of her convictions and when she thinks any course is a wise one, pursues it and will be able to carry it out to the end. Her health will be good in the main, but she will not live to be a very old woman. She will travel a good deal, especially during her last years. She has strong intellectual powers with a practical, clear head for business, but not much love for the romantic or imaginary. In matters of the heart she is steadfast and true and will marry twice. One of these marriages comes about twenty-five and the other considerably later. She will have good success and a lucky life in the long run, with comparatively little trouble.

"M. A. J." does not give me a nom de plume and so I use the first letters of her name. She has a hand indicating great possibilities for the future, but she is inclined to look on the dark side of things. This changes, however, when she is about twenty-five and after that she finds life much easier and happier. Early in life she is somewhat weak and vacillating in her ideas and has very little self-reliance or courage. This is partly the result of circumstances, however, as she was born with a naturally happy disposition. If she would cultivate a little more energy she would find that her happiness depends largely upon herself and her own will. She has been too dependent upon other people and she needs to realize that happiness comes from within and not from without. Some special good fortune will reach her about the age of thirty-five or forty which she will find of great value to her. She will marry not far from twenty-five, but I think the first marriage will not be at all satisfactory. She will marry again a dozen years later or so with much better results.

sults. There is liability of a severe illness or accident at about the age of twenty-five which must be guarded against. After that her health is good up to about sixty. I do not see that the life line goes much beyond that age. She will travel a good deal during the middle of her life. It is not possible to state in these predictions the exact month or year that a thing will happen. We can only say at about such an age. On the whole, I see a great deal of happiness and good fortune in this hand, although the subject is impatient of delay and unwilling to wait for good luck.

"America" has an excellent hand—one of the best I have seen for some time, although it shows that she has a nervous

temperament which she needs to control. She is a very refined and sensitive person, fond of music and flowers, pictures and literature. She is inclined somewhat to despondency at times. She will excel in imaginative writing if she takes it up. She has a great gift for that sort of thing and either as a writer of romantic fiction or imaginative poetry she would meet with great success. This may not come all at once, but if she has perseverance enough to go ahead in spite of obstacles, she can become famous as a writer. There are several signs of this in her hand, with splendid lines on the Mount of Apollo which indicate reputation and success. There is a cross on Jupiter and a distinct Fate line rising from the wrist and going straight up. I see one marriage at about the age of twenty-five or thirty, but with her marriage is not the greatest thing in life. She has wonderful gifts and if she can develop perseverance enough to carry them through, she will make a great success of life. She will have to look out for her health, as she has been somewhat delicate in childhood. There is a crease broken into the life line which is offset by a stronger line, showing that her health will be much improved and that she will grow stronger as the years progress. The life line ends in a star which indicates celebrity at the close of her life. I should advise "America" to take up the line of historical writing. First, study the local history of some locality in her vicinity and then select her characters and go ahead.



"M. A. J."



"AMERICA."

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Digitus

ANOTHER READER HAS BEEN MAKING MONEY EASILY.

I noticed in your valuable paper that one of your readers had been very successful selling Baird's Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders, and thought my experience would be interesting too. It is simply wonderful how much better these new fruit flavoring powders are than the liquid extracts sold in stores, when you stop to think that they cost only about half as much. You use them for cakes, custards, candies, ice cream, etc., just like the liquid. We used them ourselves and liked them so well that I wrote the manufacturers, Baird Mfg. Co., 128 Baird Bldg., Pittsburg, Pa., for samples and tried selling them to my neighbors. I only commenced a short time ago, but the powders are fast becoming celebrated around here and I have built up a steady trade from regular customers, often making over \$25.00 a week. I never knew of such an easy way to make money and I would recommend anyone having a little spare time to write this firm, for they are very generous in their dealings.

R. L. C.

NEW INVENTION—A \$12 BATH CABINET FOR ONLY \$5.00.

Our new 1902 style Square Quaker guaranteed best of all cabinets at any price. Has real door on hinge—steel frame, best materials, rubber lined, folds flat, lasts 20 years. Turkish and Vapor baths at home. Seals. Open the millions of pores, sweats, poisons out of the blood, keeps you clean and healthy, beautifies the complexion. Physicians recommend it for Colds, La Grippe, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Obesity, Female Ills, all Blood, Skin, Nerve or Kidney troubles. Money refunded after 30 days use, if not as represented. Price \$5.00, with heater, directions, formulae, Face Steamer \$1.00 extra. Order today. This bath is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Editor.

Write us. Valuable book free. Address: Good Seller, World Mfg. Co., 9th World Bldg., Cincinnati, O. [We recommend above firm as reliable.—Editor.]



\$9.00 Boys' High Arm Sewing Machine
Adapted for light or heavy work. Makes double lock stitch, has self-feeding foot, 20 years guarantee. Without any money in advance we will send to your home on 30 days FREE TRIAL your choice of our folding cabinet sewing machines, as illustration, or our 3, 5 or 7 drawer machines, with best solid steel attachments, weighs 15 ounces, 32 caliber, 3-inch barrel. If you will sell for us \$5.00 worth of our XXX Laundry Bluing at the per pkg. Don't send any money. We send you the bluing postpaid, together with our big premium list of bicycles, jewelry, dinner sets, etc. When sold send us the money and select your premium. Brockstedt Mercantile House, 608 N. Broadway, B. & St. Louis, Mo.

PARALYSIS
Loomotor Ataxia conquered at last. Doctors puzzled, Specialists amazed at recovery of patients thought incurable, by DR. CHASE'S BLOOD AND NERVE FOOD. Write me about your case. Advice and proof of cures FREE. DR. CHASE, 224 N. 10th St., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FREE CURE for ASTHMA
Trial Package of three special medicines Free. DR. W. K. WALRATH, Box 505 ADAMS, N. Y.



FREE
For a little work among your friends, this elegant Double-action Revolver; has octagonal nickel-plated barrel, black rubber handle, and all parts finely finished; weighs 15 ounces, 32 caliber, 3-inch barrel. If you will sell for us \$5.00 worth of our XXX Laundry Bluing at the per pkg. Don't send any money. We send you the bluing postpaid, together with our big premium list of bicycles, jewelry, dinner sets, etc. When sold send us the money and select your premium. Brockstedt Mercantile House, 608 N. Broadway, B. & St. Louis, Mo.

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\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.

WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY

in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's order-the complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvases. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America.

We make over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, or to the Merchants Bank, or to any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging, and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than \$5 every day. We pay you \$1.00 per day. ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county, a business better than a store with a \$25,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA

Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woollen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence. We reduce the price of fields and oranges, ready to order to \$5.00 and upward; Pants from \$1.50 to \$5.00. We show a large line of suits at from \$5.00 to \$8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU

a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloons, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Hot Confidential Price List. The price of this outfit is in fact every description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business will come in every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at \$1.00 to \$5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK FROM US OF AT LEAST \$10.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of the life curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as references, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received. If found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages, The \$1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us your mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR \$1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to \$25.00. Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and if I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line.

Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age.

Married or single.

Address your letters plainly to

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

On above line give name of your nearest express office.

FREE

ANY ONE CAN EASILY EARN A WATCH-CHAIN AND CHARM LADIES' STYLE. GOLD PLATED, NICKEL OR SILVER WATCH, (not a big clock called a watch) CHAIN BRACE-LET with lock and key, 50 PIECE TEA SET, full size for family use, GOLD FINISHED INITIAL RING. We mean every word we say. To quickly introduce our house and goods we will give away thousands of the above presents ABSOLUTELY FREE. Send us your name and address (no money) and we will mail you, postpaid 15 beautiful stamped money, different designs, with 15 exquisitely perfumed love charms. Sell the Dollies at 10c. each and give one charm free with each. When sold send us the \$1.50 and we will at once send you for selling 15, one Watch-Chain and Charm and a Ring with any letter you wish, together with our offer of 50 piece Tea Set, etc. **PARIS ART CO., B. 5 MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY.**

SELF-SEALING PIE TIN

has a crimped rim which holds both crusts fast together and prevents the rich juices from escaping. It is so constructed that the crust will always bake crisp and brown. Sample sent postpaid on receipt of retail price, 25c. We are the largest manufacturers of Household Specialties in the U.S. AGENTS, write how to get this and others of our best selling novelties. Outfit worth \$2.00—FREE. All goods guaranteed to give satisfaction. Address Dept. X HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Editor.

CAMERA OUTFIT

We are giving away Telescopes, Cameras and many other premiums, to boys and girls, for selling two doz. 15c. Rolled Gold Collar Buttons at 5c each. Send us your address and we will forward you post-paid two doz. buttons. When sold send us \$1.20 and we will send you your premium. **HENRY BUTTON CO., DEPT. 88, CHICAGO.**

THE MAGICAL SPONGE.

THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY.

For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Brass, Jewels, Copper, Brass, and Tin.

For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just as the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liverman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal. It does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Baseboards, Window Sills, Wallpapering and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered, steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory. Address: COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

"THAT NOBLE ANIMAL, THE HORSE." YOU WANT IT.

THE GREATEST AND BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN ON HORSES.

A Gold Mine of Interest and Information by Which You Save Dollars.

Prof. Oscar Gleason, the greatest horse owner, trainer and breaker that ever lived in America has at last consented to write a book on the Horse. We have made arrangements to publish this valuable work to all lovers of horses, and we call your attention to the great value of this unparalleled work which should be in every home and stable in the land. Gleason's Horse Book is a large handsomely bound book of over 400 pages, printed on pure white paper in large, clear type, bound in colored covers and richly and elegantly illustrated with 186 full plates and illustrations drawn by special artists. It is the most complete horse book ever published, produced under the direction of the United States Government Veterinary Surgeon. In this book Prof. Gleason has given to the world for the first time his wonderful methods of training and treating horses. It contains chapters on History, Education, Teaching Tricks, How to Buy, Feeding, Breeding, Breaking and Taming, How to Detect a Saddleman, Care, Cures, and many other subjects of interest to the horse owner.

Invaluable Study of the Diseases and Treatment of the animal. To know who is in any way interested in horses. Nothing left out. Clear, and has always been sold as high as \$2.00 a volume until now. We have made a special arrangement to give away this book to every person who will send three cents to pay for shipping charges and for a trial six months' subscription to our paper. Great Club Premium. If you will get up a club of only two yearly subscribers to this paper at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each we will send you the book as a free premium. Address: NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

Illustrations of horses and riders.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

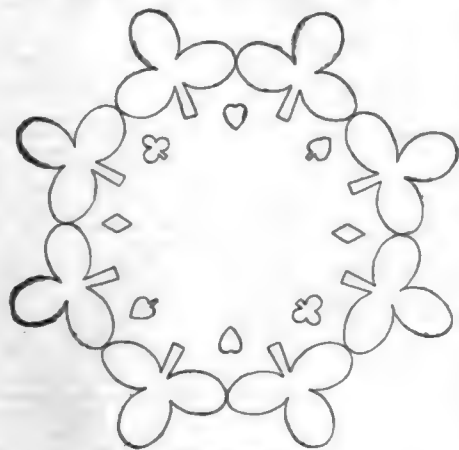


THE rush for Christmas now being over, we may turn our attention to our own needs, which have been overlooked and crowded out in the grand holiday rush.

About this season of the year we find time to look over cast-off clothing with a view to remodeling.

As we already have our necessary winter outfit provided, and have gotten over the holiday rush, we feel that we may take a little time for making up a fancy silk waist from soiled materials already on hand—or may make over a skirt which will be just what we need, but which will take considerable of our time, for the reason that as much work must be put into the ripping up, sponging and pressing, as in the actual making after all this has been done.

The ideas of freshening and renovation come to one only with years of experience, but when once learned the know-how remains. Velvet, when crushed can be made to rise again with the help of an open tin pan full of boiling

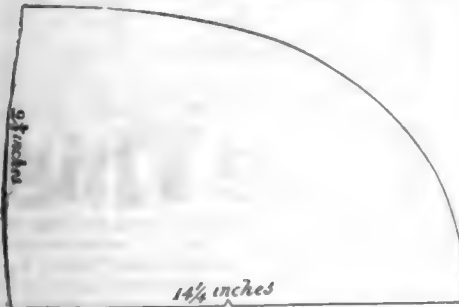


EMBROIDERED MAT.

water. Hold the wrong side over the steam, stretching it tight, and have someone else brush up the right side of the velvet with a stiff brush, brushing against the grain. This process will remove wrinkles, stiffen the crushed pile and cleanse the velvet.

White cashmere and serge may be cleaned by rubbing them with hot dry flour; brush off the flour and repeat the process if necessary. This is one of the French methods of dry cleansing.

For freshening fur, place on a table, hairy side up, and rub in handfuls of sawdust; then shake over the table, to save what sawdust shakes off. Then lay the hair side of the fur down on a pillow and beat with a switch. Continue the beating until all the sawdust has



PATTERN OF TEA-COSEY.

been removed. For white furs use white cornmeal in a similar manner. Remove grease from fur with gasoline applied with a piece of cloth.

Colored and black silks are freshened by placing upon a smooth table and rubbing, by means of a cloth, with equal parts of alcohol and warm water. Don't iron silks if it can be avoided, as the heat takes out all the life. A better way is to sponge them until quite damp and then pin them tightly down onto the carpet and so leave them until thoroughly dried. Benzine will remove paint from silk, but will leave what is called a water-mark; this, however, may be removed with French chalk.

If good rubber shields are used in one's gowns, they need not be thrown away when soiled, for they will wash very well; of course the cheap ones will come out stiff, in the wash, and so are unsatisfactory; but the good ones may be washed two or three times and still be as fresh as new after each wash.

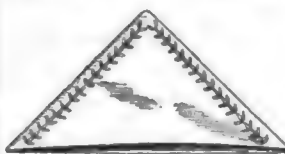
We give an illustration this month of a Tea-Cosey, and pattern for same. This pattern is for one quarter of the outside of the cosey, and the lining is cut exactly the same only about an inch smaller all around. Cut the outside from figured material, silk preferably, and the lining from plain silk. Line each outside portion



TEA-COSEY.

with soft crinoline. Join the rounding edges of the lining portions, and also those of the outside, with the corresponding centers and edges even. Arrange layers of cotton batting over the wrong side of the lining, tacking it at intervals to the lining. Then slip the outside over the lining and slip-stitch them together. Tack the parts together along the seams. Trim the lower part of the cosey with a strip of plush about four inches deep and head the band with a row of cord. Sew a cord over the visible part of the seam of the outside and arrange in three loops at the center.

We have been asked for designs for small mats that are easily worked. Many beautiful designs are to be found in the shops, but nearly all are very elaborate and take much time and silk and also, in most cases, an expert needlewoman, to properly bring out the shading etc. The design we give is very simple and may be made any size desired by enlargement. The outer edge may be worked quite solid by the deep "long and short stitch," buttonholing the edge at the same time. The inner designs may be made in outline or solid, and all may be made in white, if desired. If, however, the edge is made of white silk and the hearts and diamonds are made in solid red and the clubs and spades in solid black, the effect is quite striking, and of course the mat



BOOK MARK.

will launder equally well, as all silks are warranted washable nowadays.

The little three-cornered design is for a book-mark. We illustrated a similar one sometime ago, and have been asked repeatedly to show the design again. It is simply the corner of an envelope, and may be decorated according to the fancy of the maker—either with a vine or spray in water color, a conventional design in pen and ink, or a short message or motto. It is a good idea to have several of these little corners lying around on tables or desks, so that the children will get in the habit of putting one over the corner of the leaf of the book they are reading, and so grow up with the habit of keeping the corners of their books fresh and unturned. Children of a larger growth would do well to bear this in mind also.

The Century Plant in Mexico.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



UPON approaching the City of Mexico, the traveler is struck by the novel sight of great fields of huge century plants, and he naturally wonders what use the Mexicans can find for this plant that it should be so extensively grown. The explanation is, that it is from this plant that pulque is obtained; and what beer is to Germans, pulque is to Mexicans.

This plant, called *maguay* in Mexico, is not a century-growing plant, as might be inferred from the name commonly given it in the United States, its average life being about eleven years only. In its enormous leaves, often fifteen feet long, one foot wide and half a foot thick, it stores up its sap for ten or twelve years, and finally produces its flower and dies. This flowering is retarded by cutting out the bud of the plant, and it is in the reservoir thus formed at the base of the great leaves, that the sap collects.

Every morning the day's accumulation of sap is gathered up by the Indian laborers, it being said of this that while the finer grade is dipped up (evidently a tedious and oftentimes painful performance, the plant being armed at every point with large thorns), the ordinary kind is drawn up through a tube into the mouth of the laborer, whence he deposits it in a hog-skin sack he carries on his back.

The sap is sweet when first taken from the plant, and at that stage is called *agua miel* (honey water); a partial fermentation, which takes place in twenty-four hours, transforms it into *pulque*; and the fermentation continuing twenty-four hours later it has become *scuill*. Many efforts have been made to discover a process whereby the fermentation may be stopped when it has reached the pulque stage, but without success so far, and this very effectually confines pulque-drinking to Mexico.

There are thirty-three varieties of the *maguay* growing on the elevated table-lands of Mexico, where it is native, and it is from the largest of these that pulque is obtained. Each healthy plant yields from one hundred to one hundred and fifty gallons, annually; and as the City of Mexico alone consumes fifteen hundred gallons per day, the extent to which this plant is grown may be seen. From the sap of another variety, which grows wild, the natives distill *mescal* and *sotol*, both fiery, intoxicating drinks; and from the sap of a variety which grows as far north as Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Apache Indians distill *tis-wain*, an intoxicating liquor that has caused more than one Apache outbreak. These Indians roast in hot ashes the leaves of yet another variety for food, they having, when cooked, much the nature of a stringy sweet potato.

The discovery of the pleasure-giving properties of the sap of the *maguay* led, so tradition has it, to the downfall of the Toltec Empire; and this tradition is as follows:

"In the year 1021 there reigned in Tula (the Toltec capital) a powerful Cacique whose name was Tepalcatzin; and residing at the court of this monarch was a nobleman, the Tzin Papantli, who was the father of a beautiful girl who bore the name of Xochitl, and who came to be known as 'The Flower of Tula.' Now it so happened that the Tzin Papantli discovered quite by accident that the sap of the *maguay*, when partially fermented, made a very palatable drink; and thinking to further his interest at court, he at once sent Xochitl bearing a vessel of the beverage to the Cacique.

"Tepalcatzin was delighted with the drink, but was charmed by the beauty of its bearer, and he persuaded her to remain in the palace

and become Queen number-two. In the course of time Xochitl became the mother of a prince, who, through the favoritism of his father, afterward ascended the Toltec throne. This was considered by Queen number-one an usurpation of her own son's rights, and the family quarrel which followed at last resulted in the intervention of the war-like Aztecs, who overran the country and took it for themselves."



BIRDS sham death, as a matter of protection. A moorhen will lie in the hand perfectly limp and to all appearances unconscious. A beetle or spider will lie as if dead, with its legs all drawn in, thus hoping to be passed over. One reason suggested for this strange reasoning in these small animals is that cats never touch their prey unless it moves which seems to be understood by birds.

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free to anyone for GOLD plated Dress Pins for 10c. a set. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will appreciate. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all RECKITE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they past season and they are now burdened with remnants of many nice goods. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade-off. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into soft-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 90 to 150 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY during our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store.

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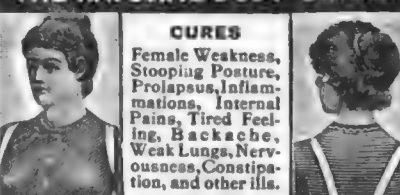
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WINES FROM APPLE TREES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



The NOTION of converting cider into sherry, madeira, hock and various other kinds of wines of first-rate quality—not by falsification, but by proper and legitimate methods—is sufficiently novel to excite serious interest. That such a transformation is practicable will be declared shortly in an official bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, which will tell American farmers how to turn their apple orchards into vineyards without vines and their cider presses into wine presses. For some time past the government experts have been pursuing this line of research, and their efforts have finally been crowned with success.

The whole matter depends upon certain kinds of yeasts, which have been imported expressly for the purpose from France, Italy and Spain. As is well known, the fermentation of wines is caused by the presence in the grape-juice of certain species of fungi—microscopic plants related to the common "molds." Bread yeast, which makes the dough rise, is composed of such fungi which feed upon the flour and cause it to ferment. In the same way the grape yeasts feed upon the grape-juice and bring about its fermentation, thus transforming it into wine.

Now, the fungi of the wine yeasts live ordinarily in the soil of the wine-producing districts. There are ever so many species of them, and their minute "spores," which correspond to seeds, float about in the air, thus getting upon the fruit and so into the vats in which the grape-juice has been collected. Finding thus the food they like, they multiply by billions in the fluid, and in this manner their wine-making errand is accomplished.

However, the various species differ very much in the effects which they produce upon the grape-juice. The wine will be more or less delicate in flavor, according to the kinds of yeast-fungi that gets into the raw material. Until recently this fact has not been understood, and so wine-production hitherto has been more or less of a gamble, the most skillful vineyardist being unable to tell in advance how a given batch of his output would turn out.

But now it is different. Science, having managed to identify the good yeast-plants, has succeeded in separating them out and propagating them artificially on gelatine in glass tubes. In this shape—the tubes tightly corked with wads of cotton to prevent the intrusion of other microbes—they have been brought from Europe to the United States, and it is a matter of no difficulty to breed unlimited quantities of them from this stock.

Enclosed in the plugged tube, a colony of the precious fungi forms a whitish patch on the surface of the semi-fluid gelatine inside. It is only with the aid of a powerful microscope that the little plants can be distinguished as individuals. When wanted for business, a few of them are introduced into a vat of newly-collected grape-juice, and immediately they begin to multiply in such numbers as actually to crowd out all other species of yeasts. Consequently the fermentation goes ahead ideally, and the resulting wine is of a definite flavor, "bouquet," sweetness, and richness in alcohol, all of these qualities being determined in advance.

Now, the spontaneous fermentation of apple-juice is due, similarly, to microscopic fungi which are carried by air, deposited upon the fruit, and so transferred to the cider vats. Here again ever so many species are concerned, and some are much less beneficial than others. Even under the microscope, they look much alike, and yet the effects they produce upon the apple-juice in which they propagate are widely different. This, indeed, explains the notable variations in the quality of cider, such as every one has noticed. According to the sort of yeast that predominates in the apple-juice, the cider will be more or less rich in alcohol, more or less sweet, more or less delicate as to flavor, and possessed of more or less keeping quality.

So it will be seen that whatever is true of grape-juice in this regard is true also of apple-juice, and the only way to be sure of getting first-rate cider every time is to control the yeast fungi which develop in it. This can be done perfectly well, and will be accomplished as soon as farmers can be persuaded to take the trouble to keep on hand a little bottle of the proper microbes, which before long will be on the market, just as bacteria for ripening cream are already sold to dairymen.

Some of the beneficent cider-making fungi have already been identified and propagated. Just as in the case of the grape-juice, a few of them, introduced into the vat of fresh apple-juice, quickly established for themselves a monopoly there, preventing any "wild" species from developing. The cider, not affording nourishment to any trouble-making microbes, clears rapidly, is rich in alcohol, and acquires the desired flavor and bouquet. In the not-distant future, as a result of intelligent effort on the part of apple-growers, we shall have in this country special brands of cider of an excellence hitherto undreamed of.

However, this is not all, by any means. It remains to speak of the conversion of cider into wines, which is a matter of far more importance commercially. And, in discussing this point, it must be realized at the start that grape-juice is only a raw material to which the fungi contribute the qualities of flavor, bouquet, etc., which give it value. Such being the case, it is not so very astonishing to find that apple-juice will do just about as well as grape-juice to make fine wines out of. In fact, it is discovered that, in order to produce excellent sherry, it is necessary merely to add to apple-juice the proper yeast, obtained originally from the Xeres district in Spain. The same way with Madeira, with port, and so on.

This is what the experts of the Department of Agriculture have been working on recently, and the results they have obtained are really wonderful. One of them showed to the writer yesterday a series of large bottles, from which

in succession he poured hock, madeira, sherry, port, and three or four other wines—all of them made from the same batch of apple-juice, but resembling each other in not the slightest degree, while it would hardly have been possible for an experienced wine-taster to distinguish them from the articles which they counterfeited.

The United States, of course, is the great apple-producing country, and this new discovery opens out a prospect for an immense and very profitable industry for American farmers. They will become wine-makers, without planting a vine, and will supply the markets of both the Old World and the new with Yankee "vintages" comparable to the best European. Very little skill will be required in the business—the yeast-plants, bought in bottles, will attend to that—and the apple wines will have the additional advantage of superior purity, inasmuch as they will be so cheap that it will not pay to adulterate them.

In conclusion, it may be of interest to state that the fungi in the grape-juice or apple-juice feed upon the sugar which the stuff contains. This sugar they transform into alcohol and carbonic acid gas. By the introduction of the requisite species of microbes, apple-juice is converted into champagne, to which the requisite "fizz" is given by forcing an extra supply of carbonic gas into it. It is mighty good champagne, too—a real wine, and not to be confused for a moment with the "champagne cider" so long familiar.

WHERE IRON IS SCARCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WE are told by historians that the overthrow of the Aztec empire by Cortez was due largely to the fact that the Aztecs were not possessed of either iron or steel weapons with which to combat the Spaniards, iron being then unknown in Mexico.

This is true, no doubt, and iron is still a scarce commodity in Mexico, so scarce that a pilfering Mexican will walk ten miles to steal a handful of railroad spikes, and the losses of Mexican railroads by thefts of this kind amount to an important sum every year. Spikes, bolts, tools, in fact any article of iron that is not spiked down, locked up, or too heavy to be carried away, will quickly disappear if left unguarded. These losses have been reduced to a minimum, however, the railroads having learned by sad experience how to protect themselves, and if the traveler in Mexico will observe closely, he will note that the trainmen carefully remove the coupling links and pins from cars that are left on side-tracks, and that the point of every bolt in the track is battered so that the tap cannot be removed with the fingers.

On one occasion, so the railroaders relate, the men composing a freight-train crew were all called to the forward end of their train; in their haste, they neglected to lock their cabooses, and when they returned to it, after a short absence they found that their stove, in which they had left a roaring fire, had been stolen.

Again, it is said that the engineer and fireman of a train that was standing on a lonely side-track awaiting the coming of another train, decided to avail themselves of the opportunity for a nap. They slept not longer than thirty minutes, but when they awoke, they found it impossible to move their engine, thieves having stolen vital parts of the machinery.

Another story is, that a pile-driver met with an accident, and its hammer which weighed a ton or more falling to the ground, was left where it had fallen until a crane could be brought to return it to its place. A Mexican spied it lying there, a prize of untold value in his eyes, and he called in a party of his friends to assist him in carrying it off.

The hammer was heavy, they well knew, but give a Mexican a burro (donkey) and unlimited time, both of which are usually plentiful in Mexico, and he will dare to undertake almost anything; therefore a burro became one of the party that stole noiselessly that night along the railroad track. Arriving at the hammer, two timbers taken from a bridge nearby were placed, one end on the ground, the other on the burro's back, making an incline upon which the men began sliding their prize. Up, up it went, inch by inch until it was almost on the burro's back, when, with a groan, the patient little animal gave way and sank to the ground, the ponderous hammer falling on him and crushing out his life.

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wick, 4-8 inch wide—the size by mail, sample 5 cents; per gross, \$2.50. Small or E lamps, lanterns, etc., 3-8 inch wide, per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, \$2.50. Large or B wicks, for table, bracket lamps, 1 inch wide, per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, \$2.50. Store lamps, sample, 5 cents; \$3.50 gross. Argand wicks for ple wick, 8 cents; per dozen, 85 cents; per gross, \$10.00. On all orders for \$10.00 the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send your sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantity, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.

SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. Six cents and this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A B or E wick. Address COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.

BEEF ISSUE DAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FOR MANY years the various tribes of American Indians, not self-supporting, received rations at regular and stated times from the United States Government. It was customary to distribute the meat upon a certain day of one week, and upon the same day of the following week, the other rations; in each case the quantity issued was expected to last for two weeks. The general supplies were cereals, lard, tea, coffee, sugar, salt, etc., dealt out in accordance with the size of each family; the beef was supplied "on the hoof," instead of "from the block" as is the present custom.

During the time that the Cherokee Commission was negotiating with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, the Commissioners with members of their families were stationed for months at Fort Reno, Indian Territory. The encampments of those Indians were close at hand, and there was a fine opportunity to learn something of life among the untamed barbarians.

Beef Issue was a time of great excitement to the Indians, to which they looked forward with eager longing, while to the civilized it was a harrowing spectacle never willingly witnessed a second time, unless by those who were destitute of the attributes of pity and mercy. The sight was one of the most revolting exhibitions of cruelty to animals ever tolerated in a Christian land, and doubly shocking because sanctioned by the government, as represented by the Indian Department, the horrible butchery being conducted under the eyes of government officials.

One autumn morning at an early hour, a party left Fort Reno for a certain point four miles distant, where the beef was to be distributed that day to the Indians of this special reservation. The party included the Commissioners with their wives, the Indian Agent, a United States Army officer, detailed to inspect the cattle and superintend the work, and a small detachment of troops. Passing the shabby but picturesque tepees of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, clustered at desirable points on the rolling prairie, it was evident that unusual activity prevailed. As the little procession from the fort drew near the designated place, the Indians could be seen approaching from different directions, hastening towards a large, rudely constructed corral, where more than one hundred wild Texan steers were confined. The older men either came walking through the tall grass that partially concealed them, or else two or three would be astride of a small pony, as they have no mercy upon any beast. All of these were blanketed Indians, only just ready to receive gifts from the government, but not ready to adopt any garments suggesting civilization. All wore moccasins, were enveloped in white cotton blankets, long hair braided, with the scalp lock decorated with feathers.

As this pastime was furnished by the Indian Department as a slight compensation for the loss of pleasure and profit consequent upon the disappearance of the buffalo, the young "bucks" who were to take an active part in the "hunt," came mounted upon their ponies. One hundred of these braves, ready for the fray, were drawn up in line near the corral, awaiting the first act in the tragedy of the day.

In one corner of the inclosure we saw the scales for weighing the animals and the branding chute. It was the duty of the Indian agent and the army officer to inspect the cattle, when those that were accepted were weighed in their presence. With great difficulty the poor dumb creatures were driven into the branding chute, where they were packed as closely as possible. All of them seemed wild with fear, but the worst was yet to come. The branders stood ready with heated irons and watched their opportunity to quickly press the red hot metal upon the back or flank of each struggling creature, when his frantic plunge and roar of pain only increased the enjoyment of his savage tormenters. In the writhings and turnings to escape, one occasionally stumbled or the long, curved horns became locked, each miserable condition being welcomed with shouts of joy by "the wards of our government" who with great glee continued to prod the animals with sharp irons. The reason given for the branding is, that the letters "I. D." are necessary for the protection of the Indian in whose possession a hide is found, proving that it became his through the generosity of the Indian Department.

The mounted Indians were near the chute, and when this part of the work ended, one by one their names were called. Each one designated came forward and marked his property by cutting off its tail or an ear, or possibly by a dextrous stroke struck a horn down to the quick, or applied an additional brand. Sometimes the more humane plan was adopted of tying a strip of cloth to the creature. When all were labelled, the gate was opened; with blows and shouts the maddened animals were turned loose upon the prairie, only to confront new dangers as they strove to escape from the brutal crowd.

As soon as a "buck" recognized his property, he broke from the ranks, urged his pony to its highest speed and chased the frenzied steer, occasionally firing his Winchester rifle. Many shots were fired at random; as it is a pleasure to prolong this mimic buffalo chase, the aim is not to kill, but to produce agony. From time to time the gate was opened and other steers rushed out, until the prairie seemed literally alive with the frightened beasts and the racing, yelling Indians. At last one totters, falls, tries to rise, but after a few useless efforts sinks exhausted, struggling and bellowing until its owner is pleased to fire the finishing shot. But the height of cruelty was not reached until the brave sprang from his pony, seized the dying creature, cut out its tongue, hung it to his saddle bow and rode proudly to the spot where the older Indians waited to show his trophy of the exciting hunt.

The whole scene was fantastic and uncanny; the Indians in ghostly wrappings, their long black hair unbraided in their race was stream-

ing over face and shoulders, the eagle feathers dangling from each scalp lock, as with Winchester held high, uttering hideous yells and whoops they spurred their nimble footed ponies to circle round and round the flying, terrified beasts. It was a spectacle to fill one with disgust and horror; the exhibition was a stain upon the starry field of our nation's flag and a scathing commentary upon our boasted civilization of the nineteenth century.

The wife of one of the Commissioners could not restrain her tears at the shocking brutality and expressed to the agent in very plain language her opinion of the demoralizing effect of such practices, and the disgrace reflected upon a government that permitted such barbarity. The agent was disturbed at her criticism but could only say as an excuse—"It pleases the Indians."

As soon as the butchery was over the squaws gathered like vultures, for to their care the dead cattle are intrusted. They fell at once to work, and while the flesh was still quivering with life, fevered from the wild dash for liberty, the creatures were skinned, the carcasses cut up, loaded upon wagons and drawn to the tepees. One beef was apportioned to eleven persons, the squaws being strictly honest in the distribution. Every portion is utilized but the eyes and horns and the portions usually classed as offal were used in a way disgusting and shocking to civilized beings. For five full days contentment abided in the tepees. Nothing but meat was eaten until the supply was exhausted; then they reluctantly turned their attention to the other rations, as they waited for another Beef Issue, their regularly recurring holiday.

There were Government Schools and devoted missionaries at work upon this same reservation, and one could but reflect that much of the good they might have done was counteracted by the fiendish influence of such brutal scenes at regular and stated intervals.

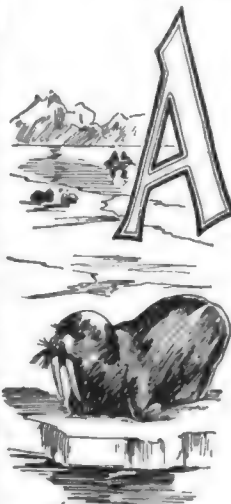
Upon some of the reservations there were serious difficulties to overcome before this method could be changed. There was often a lack of water and suitable drainage, while in other cases, the Indians were restive, liked the way that they had been accustomed to receive their beef, did not care for a change, and it was very easy for the agent to oblige them, without running the risk of serious discontent.

In a majority of cases these objections have been overcome, and the baneful practice is discontinued. This has been accomplished in the last four years, and soon, it is hoped, "beef on the hoof" will be a thing of the past; then supplies will be "from the block" under proper sanitary regulations.

The life of the Indian is no longer made luxurious in accord with his savage ideas, and he views the possibility of becoming like the white man with far more interest than a decade ago, when the government supplies all of his wants with a lavish hand, possibly regarding his needs from the standpoint of our higher civilization. He is now learning the richest lesson of his life, the value of labor; when that is achieved and he ceases to be a dependent idler, the long-debated Indian question will be practically settled.

WALRUS HUNTING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



SPORT that our Arctic explorers and other visitors to the Arctic Ocean have found highly exciting as well as rather dangerous, is that of walrus hunting. Though the walrus on the ice is a clumsy, awkward creature, he is quite the reverse while in the water, as numerous tales of the Esquimaux and others who have had encounters with them will testify. When the Esquimaux, who are of course famous walrus hunters go after their prey, they approach them in boats until near enough for the harpoon to be thrown—the nearer the better. The creatures are usually found on the ice-floes, and as they are not at all timid the boat can sometimes get to within a few yards of them before the blow is delivered.

The harpoon used is a wicked affair. To its head is attached a very long and tremendously strong line of whale-skin, while the handle is loose and easily separated from the head. When the harpoon is thrown the head penetrates the thick skin, while the handle comes off and floats in the water. The line is attached to the head in such a way that instead of pulling out when the line is taut, it turns at right angles to the wound; so that it is impossible for the walrus to get away unless the line breaks. This way and that the walrus swims, towing the boat here and there with frightful speed, its occupants in danger of being dashed against an ice-floe, or of being overturned and drowned. At last, however, if everything goes well, the poor beast is tired out and a lance thrust or bullet in a vital part puts it out of suffering. Then he is towed back to shore and cut up.

Accidents frequently happen; the walrus sometimes turns on his captors and many a kayak, as the Esquimaux boats are called, has been overturned or destroyed and the occupants either drowned or killed by the infuriated

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| 5 You'll remember me. | 639 Milwaukee Fire. | 1182 Hear Den Bella. |
| 6 Kathleen Mavourneen. | 673 A Boy's Best Friend. | 1202 Irish Jingles. |
| 7 My old Kentucky Home. | 712 Ship that never returned. | 1240 Picture turned to the Wall. |
| 8 I'll be all smiles to-night. | 713 Why dig Ma's Grave. | 1249 Sentenced to Death. |
| 9 Gilbey's Warning. | 717 Some Day I'll wander back. | 1280 Pardon came too late. |
| 107 Back to Old Virginia. | 748 Texas Ranger. | 1278 Takes a Girl to do it. |
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beasts.

It is possible to shoot walruses, of course, but unless the shot kills the creature instantly there is great danger that he will get into the water and sink.

The cry of these animals is a deep groan or bark, and the Esquimaux are very clever in imitating this cry and often succeed in attracting the creatures to their boat when they are not in sight on the ice.

The walrus grows frequently to a weight of twenty-five hundred pounds, and does not look unlike an overgrown hog with the exception of its huge flippers, bristles, whiskers and long ivory tusks. Its skin is very thick, and is wrinkled and warty, and covered with a sparse growth of reddish or grey hair. The size of its head is out of all proportion to the size of its body.

On land a more ungainly object would be hard to find, but in the water it is indeed a worthy foe.

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THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER. Length 15 inches. Weighs 16 pounds. Burns 100 times with 30 worth of oil. No kindling. It is the fuel over the blazing kindler and the fire is built. Saves hours of time and gallons of oil. Warranted 3 years. Greatest relief for agents ever invented. Customers everywhere. An average country yields agent \$100 profit. Act quick if interested. Sample postpaid with terms 25 cents. Yankee Fire-Kinder Co., Block 10, Quincy, Illinois.

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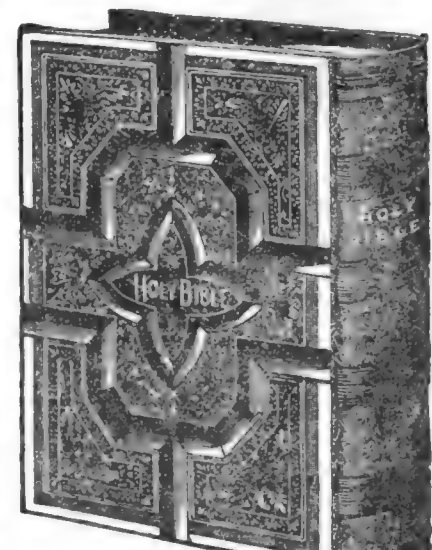
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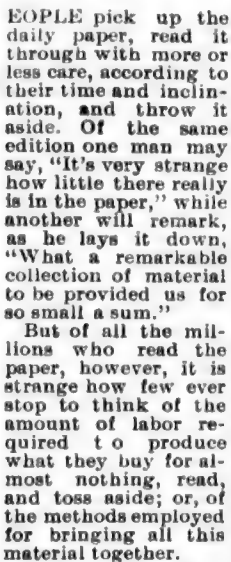
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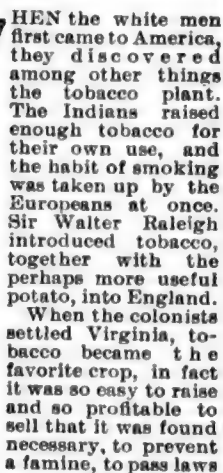
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Usually one reporter during the day, and another at night, has for his exclusive and regular work the watching of the police headquarters. In most cities it is the rule that the record book is kept at police headquarters in which is supposed to be entered a brief report of any arrest which is made or any accident reported, directly after the police themselves have the in-

It may not be generally known, however, that a well-arranged "grave yard" contains much more than a collection of articles pertaining merely to people. Famous buildings go in there, with the chance that they may sometime be burned, or celebrate an anniversary, in either of which cases their history becomes of interest. Accounts of floods and accidents are valuable for purposes of comparison. The scope of the collection is limited only by the room at the disposal of the office or by the amount of force which can be assigned to doing the work.

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ALMOST MIRACULOUS.

FREE BY MAIL One pkg. flower seeds, two varieties Coleus, two Ivies, one Heliotrope, Ageratum, Geranium, Chrysanthemum, well rooted, well packed. All for 25c. Address FLORIST, Augusta, Maine.

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require a good knife that has not only got the **right stuff** in it but it must be strong and be large enough for all round service. The detachable and adjustable knife here illustrated is made in Sweden. This knife is made from the **finest hand forged razor steel**, it is very strong and made in the very best manner. It is not only an every day **Pocket knife** but for hunting and purposes where strength and utility is wanted it is **the most satisfactory and desirable knife** in existence. The small illustration showing knife in the hand gives an idea of the open ready for use knife; the large illustration shows the **brass frame** which the blade shuts into before it all slides into the strongly made handle marked "Sweden." The Swedes are the most honest and thorough workmen in the world and Swedish Razors have a world wide reputation. These knives are now having a large sale in America on account of their great strength, durability and keen edge. The handle is four inches long and blade and handle together seven inches long.

A KNIFE FREE. These knives sell in many places for \$1.00 but we will give one free to any one sending us two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 50c for a two years' subscription.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



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Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps near perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watch as you can have. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every watch a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what the price. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper. We will not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can get a most valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special rate of \$1.00, or 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember, we will give you a new watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same, we will also send you a nice chain. Address **CONSTITUTIONAL**



A Happy New Year to you, dears, and all the good of another century, brought down into the few short years that the good Lord gives to us. May it be not only a happy New Year, but every day of it happier than its predecessor. Now let us to our task.

The first inquirer is Forest Fern, Felt Mills, N. Y., who wants to know as so many of my cousins do, about permitting familiarities from young men. All I can say to her and to all, now and always is, "For Heaven's sake, don't." Why do you want to make yourself cheap and common?

Innocent, Richardson, Tenn.—Get the young man out of your thoughts until you are twenty-one. Time enough then to worry.

Marie Louise, Hallowdale, Miss.—Accept nothing but the most formal attention from any married man. (2) It is against the law in most states to marry a first cousin. (3) Parents cannot legally prevent children who are of age from marrying.

M. P. C., Clark's Mills, N. Y.—Write to McGibbon & Co., 19th St., B'd'way, New York.

Ignorance, Magnolia, Miss.—Thanksgiving Day originated in New England, and was simply a day set apart for thanks after the harvests were all in. Rose Lily, Saguache, Cal.—Don't "accept a man's company" until you know him very well. (2) There is everything in "how a young lady carries herself in company with young men," and she cannot be too careful. (3) It is highly improper for a young lady to smoke cigarettes anywhere.

Rosile, Portland, Ore.—Write to Superintendent Census, Washington, D. C.

Gladys, North Town, Minn. A general acceptance of a young man's company for an evening ought to mean that he has first claim on you.

Pauline, Albany, Ga.—The eighteen year old boy may think and say that he loves you, but make him wait till he is at least of age. If he won't wait he doesn't love you at all.

Miss Pattie, Duval, Fla.—You have acted foolishly and should write to the young man saying so, and apologizing.

Alma, Campbellburg, Ky.—Rich men looking for beautiful young girls to adopt as their daughters are very scarce. I do not know the address of a single one.

Lilac, Milwaukee, Wis. Yes, wear your hair in a braid and don't worry about your size. Precious articles are put up in small packages.

H. W. C., Washington, D. C.—Your system is run down and you need a tonic. Consult your physician. (2) The man orders the supper after the theater under the lady's direction. (3) Ask your druggist.

D. J., Croton, N. Y.—It is the lady's place to speak first. (2) A boy of seventeen may walk home from church with you if he is a nice boy.

S. R. S., Moore's Mills, N. Y.—Write to the postmaster at Albany for the information you wish, enclosing stamp for reply.

Rose, Enfield, Ills.—All wedding arrangements are made after consultation between both parties. The young lady may and should visit the home of the parents of the man she is to marry.

M. T., Irvine, Ky.—See advertisement in Comfort for the books you want.

Brunette, Leiter's Ford, Ind.—It is hardly the right thing to refuse to dance, unless you are there as a spectator, or as chaperone.

Daisy, Sprague, Wis.—The right kind of a girl will not want to flirt with one man when she is engaged to another.

Beryl, Essex, Ont.—A visit to Europe is worth more to you than a trip through the States, expense and history considered. (2) Always dress simply. (3) Don't hide your love for the young man, if he loves you and tells you so.

Tom Girls, Burlington, Me.—As a rule it is safe to let your parents judge of a young man's fitness to be your associate. (2) Have nothing to do with one man who backbites another. (3) The young man has a right to say you must not write to other men. (4) From five to ten years is a good difference in the age of man and wife.

Bicycle Girl, Bee, Ark.—There is no harm in taking your wheel when you go to visit friends, nor in giving your picture to a young man—if he is your kinsman.

Fern, Paducah, Ky.—A bride should wear gloves. (2) Certainly, a lady should thank a man for helping her off a car.

P. and J., Worcester, Mass.—There is no way of compelling a rejected correspondent to return your letters. (2) Don't accept presents from men if you are afraid they will presume upon them. (3) Politeness only occasionally compels you to go with a man you do not like.

Correspondent, Weatherford, Tex.—There is no place in the wide world where you can sell stories, poems, &c., and have them printed and paid for at once. Editors always do just as they please with such.

Lily Polly, Brownfield, Ills.—It is not elegant for a man to smoke in a lady's company, and positively bad form for him to smoke on the street with her.

G. B., Stockbridge, Wis.—You could not do better than learn photography and practice it as a profession.

D. H. B., Ralph, Ky.—Marry the man if you love him, and don't if you don't. (2) Ask your druggist for an insecticide.

Iona Linden, Chicago, Ills.—Study your grammar and forget for five years that there is a young man in the world.

E. K., Taos, Mo.—Stop corresponding with the young man if he is serious and you are not. (2) The whole is warm blooded.

Eva Van, Castle Leo, Cal.—As far as I can judge, I should say you might safely accept the young man. It is all right to walk three miles to church with him if there is no conveyance.

Untertown, Union Mills, Pa.—You can get a glass stopper out of a bottle by running a red hot poker carefully around the bottle neck. (2) Write to Comfort for the song.

Dewdrop, Mt. Laurel Va.—The man precedes the lady going into church, unless it is her own church and he does not know where her pew is.

Violet, Columbus, Ohio.—It is extremely risky to marry a man who is sulky if he can't have his own way. Married people must divide their stubbornness.

Lorena, Trenton, N. J.—Be nice and polite to the

young man and see if he will respond. But don't think too much about him.

Fannie, Vernon, Fla.—Put on long dresses when you begin to teach school. (2) Just go on despising the young man and let other people see you do it.

Deborah, Slaughter, La.—It is correct to speak to your partner in the dance.

Now your questions are all answered except some silly ones about hugging and kissing that every nice girl ought to know instinctively, and I wish you again a Happy New Year. By by till next month. COUSIN MARION.

Tobacco Raising in the United States.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20.)

tobacco, and brought back the products of the old world to the colonists.

Tobacco is one of the important crops of America today, though only in recent years has the United States come to be considered a tobacco-growing country. Though the native tobacco is as good as any, it has taken the recent troubles in Cuba for us to find this out, for the Cuban crop being neglected, smokers were forced to use native tobacco, which was found very satisfactory. This is not remarkable in view of the fact that many of the so-called Havana cigars made in the United States in reality are manufactured of native tobacco.

The annual production of tobacco in the United States is close to 500,000,000 pounds, and from this the government has received in the last twenty-five years as a revenue tax, over a billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000.) Though generally supposed to be a southern product, it is raised as far north as Wisconsin and Vermont. The largest amount of tobacco is grown in Pennsylvania, while over 65,000,000 pounds were raised last year, and it is also a product of the states of Vermont, Kentucky, Virginia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Florida, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio and Connecticut.

The tobacco leaf resembles in shape and size the leaf of the rubber plant. The plant requires a rich soil and plenty of moisture. In Virginia, in early colonial times, the planters would clear a new field for tobacco every two years at least, and the crops raised in this alluvial soil were remarkable for their luxuriance, and for their fine flavor when cured. At the present day, while it is impossible to change the location of the tobacco fields, fertilizers take the place of the virgin soil.

In northern localities the seeds are started under glass, and are transplanted early in the summer. They require plenty of water, and careful attention in weeding and the removal of insects, the tobacco worm especially, which will completely ruin a crop in a very short time if not carefully removed.

When the plants are full grown they are cut off at the roots with shears and hung up to dry in a shed, the sides of which are left open to secure a perfect circulation of air. In about a month's time the tobacco is properly cured. Recently a process has been invented for curing the leaf in a closed shed, by means of hot air forced in through glass. This does the work in three or four days, and is in some ways better than the old process. When the leaf has been properly cured and dried, it is allowed to season and become slightly damp again. The leaves are then stripped from the stalks, are sorted according to length and quality, and tied into bundles. These are packed in cases containing 300 or 350 pounds each and are ready for shipment. In preparing the tobacco for market the greatest care has to be used, as a very slight mistake may ruin the crop. The government is conducting experiments in tobacco curing, in the hope of reaching better results in this direction than have been obtained heretofore.

As to the quality of the tobacco grown in the various states. The Pennsylvania leaf is of a peculiar texture, thick and rather gummy. This unfits it for cigar wrappers, but as a filler it is said to equal Cuban tobacco.

The Connecticut leaf is of fine texture, good for cigar wrappers and in flavor some experts declare that it surpasses the very finest foreign leaf. In Ohio the tobacco crop is comparatively new, but results have been most satisfactory. In Illinois the crop grown in the southern part is made into "plug" tobacco, that in the north produces good leaf for cigars.

In Virginia and in the Carolinas is grown the fine, light-colored tobacco that is made into cigarettes and the finer grades of smoking tobacco. In spite of the popular feeling against the cigarette, the fact remains that the finest tobacco raised is used in their manufacture. In Kentucky also, "curley" tobacco used in smoking mixtures is raised, while Louisiana furnishes the strong "perique" which forms an ingredient of all fine mixtures.

In Florida tobacco has been raised for centuries, though at one time it was abandoned for orange culture. The severe frosts during the winters of 1894 and 1895, which froze and ruined the orange crop just as it was ready for shipment, caused the growers to look for a surer crop, and tobacco was restored to favor. Experiments have lately been made there with a view to producing a leaf equal to or better than the Havana or Cuban tobacco. These experiments seem to be successful and good Florida leaf now commands a very high price.

In Vermont the crop has proven quite profitable and the leaf has been largely used in northern and western cities for making five and ten cent "Havana" cigars.

Methods of raising the crop of course differ in different states with climatic and soil conditions. Space does not permit a description of these variations, and the process of raising the tobacco plant is substantially as here set down.

FREE TO ANY LADY

SILK SEAL PLOSH Capes \$3.50
Worth \$10 for only \$3.50.
Only 500 left. They are Swell Silk Seal Plush Capes 22-in. long, lined throughout with black Satin, edged all around with black curly Thibet fur, \$3.50. Richly embroidered and jetted. Give neck and bust measure: will send C. O. D. Try it on! If you find it the biggest bargain you ever saw, send \$3.50 and express charge.
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Over a million cases of disease in every form are now to the credit of Christian Science Healing. Most of these were cases that the doctors had given up as "incurable." Many more were chronic maladies that had baffled their skill for years. All were cured quickly, some were cured instantly. The evidence on these facts is simply indisputable and the curing still goes on. There can be no mistake or misstatement about it. The healers and their work are in the public view. As a C. S. healer my many marvelous cures have startled the world. During the past 13 years I have healed diseases of almost every kind and in every stage of severity. They included many surgical cases where operations were otherwise threatened. I cured cases that were far away from me, as well as those near at hand. And I tell you in like manner that wherever you may dwell, and whatever be your bodily ailment, or whether one or many physicians have failed to give you relief, if you report the case to me and so desire, you shall be cured. This is no vain or idle promise. My past success fully justifies it. You can be cured whether you believe in Christian Science or not. You can be cured whether in this city or thousands of miles away from me. In our Christian Science Healing distance is of no account; disbelief is not any hindrance; disappointments of the past only make stronger grounds for hope. All you really need is the wish to be healed.

I have just published a little book in regard to this blessed truth called, "A Message of Health and Healing." If you write to me I will gladly send you a COPY FREE. It gives many interesting facts and convincing testimonials. Enclose 2-cent stamp for postage.
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\$500.00 IN GOLD FREE.

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HERE is a chance to use your Brains and Win \$500.00 in Gold. We want you to try and arrange these 20 jumbled letters printed in the block square to the left which properly arranged will spell the names of 3 large cities in the World, two of these cities being in the United States, the other one being a Foreign City. In making the 3 names the letters can only be used as many times as they appear and no letter can be used which does not appear. After you have found the 3 correct names you will have used every letter in the 20 exactly as many times as it appears. If you cannot find the 3 correct names but only find 2, you will receive a special prize for your trouble worth \$1. If you answer this puzzle at once you will not be disappointed. Someone is going to win the money and it may be you. Anyway it does not cost you any money to try. All we ask is that should our committee award you a prize, that you will secure for us one yearly subscriber to our Handsome Illustrated Monthly Magazine, and as pay for securing this one subscriber, we will give you your choice of a valuable list of presents. This we can truthfully say is the very hardest puzzle ever advertised, so get out your Geography and look for these 3 cities. The correct names are only known to the President of this Company. The envelope containing the three names has been sealed and deposited with a leading Banking Co. in Boston, and will only be opened up the day after the contest closes. This we believe is the only honest way of conducting a contest as everyone has an equal chance. In case more than one person succeeds in finding the three correct names we will divide the money equally. In addition to the \$500.00 in gold we will give you an opportunity to Win

\$5.00 A WEEK FOR LIFE FREE

WITHOUT ANY LABOR OR EXPENSE
We are going to give to some one who has the contest and who complies with the conditions of obtaining for us one subscriber to our Magazine as stated above, an opportunity to Win and Secure from us without any labor or expense on their part \$5.00 every week during their natural life. We mean what we say. There is no deception and no trickery about this offer. If you are the lucky one, and we hope you are, for some one will get it, we will send the winner every week during his life \$5.00, or else send \$250.00 every year in advance whichever way they prefer. The full particulars will be mailed to you immediately upon receipt of your answer. We are a responsible company (Paid-up Capital \$100,000) composed of honorable and well known business men in the city of Boston, who can furnish the best testimonials as to their integrity and financial standing. We want to secure a large list of subscribers to our Magazine and will leave no stone unturned to accomplish (by honorable methods only) our object. Everyone entering these two contests will receive honest treatment, and you will have the same chance whether you live in California or Massachusetts. Distance makes no difference. After you have carefully arranged the 20 jumbled letters into the 3 cities, send your answer to us at once with self-addressed stamped envelope and we will immediately write and send you full particulars how you can win \$5.00 a week for life. Don't delay. Address
The Bernard-Richards Co., Ltd., 102 E. Broad St., Boston, Mass.

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Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.

Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts, heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Breeches, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Entered by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced. Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Perfect workmanship guaranteed in each gun. We will send this paper a year and this rifle complete and sent carefully packed for \$1.00.

SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A REAL ORIENTAL RUG

is a very expensive article and is used extensively in the homes of the wealthy. This Rug is a Beautiful picture in itself. An immense factory employing hundreds of hands is turning out thousands and as they are made in bright oriental colors and patterns they produce an exquisite effect when laid on the floor. These Brussels Rugs are fit to grace the floor of a Parlor, Sitting-Room, Hall, Dining-Room or Chamber and for an entry or kitchen rug or mat are simply grand; they are made by an entirely new process of Machine Rug making, and thus called Brussels and we are anxious to get them before the people at once. Thousands upon thousands will be sold after they are shown and we offer you one free, now, in order to introduce them all over the country and after getting one you can show them around, take orders and make money selling them for us.

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are in use; yes many million Rugs, taking the world over but in this country Thousands now use Rugs where one was used a few years ago, why are they constantly growing in favor and getting more popular every day. Why? because they are practical and economical and make the House, Store or Office, more easy to take care of and give a certain dressy effect to a room that cannot be obtained in any other way. You can use them on bare floors to cover up the cold look or lay them on carpets to save the carpet.

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If you will send us the names of only two yearly subscribers with 25c. each, we will send you one of these beautiful Brussels Rugs Free as a Premium all charges paid by us. This is the best Home paper published and sample copies will be sent on application, if you wish to show them to your friends and get up the club. We will send the Rug and a year's subscription for 67c. Address
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine

TRANVAAL DIAMONDS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IF the Transvaal were a waste of desert England and the Boers would not have found it worth while to go to war. But its wealth is of more than one kind, and perhaps its most unique possession is the diamond mines at Kimberley. These are by far the richest mines in the world and more than 98 per cent. of the diamonds of the world come from their depths.

Some years ago an adventurer in South Africa begged a night's lodging at the house of a Dutch farmer. He soon discovered that the children were using as playthings some bright pebbles which they said they had found in the garden. When the idea of their being diamonds was suggested to the farmer he took them to the nearest town and selling them was made rich for life. It was some years after, as late as 1870, that prospectors began to come through the country in search of the rich treasure held in gravel and clay of the region. From that time claims were taken up until more than three thousand were being worked within a comparatively narrow radius. In 1893 Cecil Rhodes brought about a great change in the management of all these claims and controlling so much property that the diamond market of the world is in his hands. Its capital is \$19,000,000 and each year the output of the mines is worth about \$25,000,000.

In the town of Kimberley is a large store house in which are kept probably a hundred million dollars worth of diamonds, and beside this much of the company's wealth is sent to London to be cut ready for use. This company is controlled by British capitalists and its store house is protected by a regiment of red-coated regulars, so this wealth is a plum of much promise to the Boers. With a single well planned raid upon this store sufficient wealth would fall into the hands of Oom Paul and his followers to hire mercenaries from all over Europe and equip them with the most modern accoutrements of war.

But how did all these precious stones come to be in the clasp of Kimberley? Geologists tell us that in the early ages of the world the surface of the Transvaal was covered with a soft slaty rock containing a large amount of carbon. Then, through great cracks in the rock, came up boiling seething lava from the hot depths of the earth and, heating the slate to a white heat, the carbon was suddenly crystallized out of the rock into the clay of to-day. It is hard to believe that the shining gem and the bit of charcoal are made of identical elements but it is a fact.

The working of the mines at Kimberley is essentially different from that of any other mine in the world. In the first place the material in which the gems is held is soft and may be dug out instead of requiring blasting as in most mining. From the shaft in the middle of each mine galleries are built, one above another, and along these carts carry the earth to the surface, where it is spread out in the sun to dry. When the clay has reached a crumbly condition it is broken up and carried to a washing machine where the diamonds are separated from the fine soil by means of a water wheel which keeps the water in constant motion so that most of the fine clay is carried off and the heavier diamonds sink to the bottom. This sediment is then carefully examined and the diamonds taken from it by hand, so that none are overlooked. They are then sent to London to be cut.

Two of the Kimberley mines cover nineteen and thirty-five acres respectively and are the largest holes in the earth ever made by man. These mines have in their employ over fifteen hundred white men besides six thousand Kaffirs. It may be well seen that theft might be accomplished without difficulty if the utmost precaution were not taken. To take away a diamond worth a hundred thousand dollars would be an easy matter if the miners were allowed the freedom of the ordinary laborer. To prevent this the rules of the company are most rigid and no one would be tempted to enter its employ were it not for the exceptionally high wages paid. The Kaffirs are engaged for a term of months and during that time they are not allowed to leave the mine. Dormitories are provided for them and when they come from work at night each laborer is obliged to strip to the skin and leave his clothes behind him to be examined. Then a most thorough examination of their bodies has to be gone through, ears, nose and mouth, and even wounds being inspected for the precious stones which have in the past been found hidden therein. Each man is then given a blanket in which to wrap himself for the night. Over the sleeping sheds wire nettings are stretched to prevent the diamonds being thrown over. No man is allowed to even use ordinary money during his stay in the mine but is supplied with the company's specie. If stricken with sickness they are nursed at the company's hospital. Before he leaves the mine, at the end of his term of servitude, he is kept in the detention house for one week, stripped to the skin, and every act of his daily life is watched more closely than if he were a convict. But in spite of all these precautions many gems are stolen and the business of buying stolen diamonds is a profitable employment.

Some of the largest diamonds in the world have been taken from the Kimberley mines. A pale yellow stone weighing 225 carats was exhibited at Paris in 1889 and bought by an Eastern Prince. The Jagersfontein diamond is probably the largest known. It was found in 1894 by a Kaffir, who was loading clay into a cart. He gave it to the overseer and received a large reward. The stone is three inches long, two and one-half inches wide and one and one-half inches thick and weighs 971 carats. It is of a blue white color and in spite of a small flaw in the center is valued at \$2,000,000. It is now in the possession of the pope having been given him by Oom Paul Kruger.

The Kimberley diamonds are not the rough, dull pebbles we are led to think of as an uncut diamond. They are bright and shining and after being boiled in a solution of nitric and sulphuric acid they are quite brilliant. In the

store house at Kimberley are rooms in which 50,000 carats are exhibited at one time, sorted out in piles and of all shades, deep blue, pink, green, yellow and even dark brown. It is the policy of the company to allow but a small per cent. of their diamonds to be sold each year so that the price of gems is kept up and the dividends of the company are large while the amount of merchandise sold is small. Now if Boers should get possession of the storehouse or mines at Kimberley they would immediately put upon the market a large quantity of gems and the market value of diamonds would take a tremendous fall.

How To Cure RUPTURE

DEAR READER:—It gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to write this little story, for it contains a new and wonderful method of curing rupture or hernia, and places before the afflicted words of hope and feelings of great joy.

It is not my intention to use technical words or terms for the purpose of confusing those who are not familiar with them. I am sure this would not be more valuable for using those technical terms which some use, for the sole purpose of making some ignorant or inexperienced person believe that he has knowledge.

I am not going to describe the many ways one may become ruptured. In the many years I have treated ruptures I have been told of more than a thousand different things that caused my patients' affliction. If they are ruptured, and that I can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and it will surely be a blessing, coming unawares to those who follow its teachings.

There are several kinds of rupture and they are named according to their location, the most common being Pectoral, Umbilical (navel) and Femoral. They are again divided into two classes as reducible or irreducible. The reducible is one that can be returned to its proper place within the abdomen. The irreducible is one that cannot be returned. The latter is caused by going without a truss, but mostly by using some poor and ill-constructed one.

There are many people who are ruptured and do not know it. They will have at times a slight pain in the lower part of the abdomen. If they do much lifting or straining work it grows worse and will at times get so bad they think they have an attack of colic. They will take some medicine for colic, but the pain will not disappear, because whatever was out returns to its natural position. But in other cases the surgeon has been called because the rupture has become strangulated. In some cases he succeeds in reducing it, in others a surgical operation is necessary, and with others after hours of agony death only gives relief.

The best time to attend to a rupture is when it is small, perhaps in some cases no larger than an acorn. Many who have small ruptures say, "It is only a small one, does not give me any trouble, no need to bother about that."

SMALL is the right time to attend to a rupture. It is the most terrible mistake possible, for every minute it is in danger of becoming larger.

RUPTURE is a dangerous condition, and if not cured, it will lead to a fatal result.

HAVE YOU Perhaps you have suffered for years with rupture. If so, I have no doubt but you have tried many trusses and methods of cure, expended many dollars and always the same result—failure. Perhaps you have been told by some one or it has been spoken in your presence and you have believed it, because you never took time to think about it, that "rupture could not be cured."

IT CAN BE CURED Just think a minute of what is going on in your body. Two agencies at work, one constantly carrying you down, the other building you up or repairing and along as your vitality is good the repairing force keeps you in perfect health. Suppose you broke your arm, never had it set, or the proper appliance used to make it reunite and heal, the result would be that you would have a broken arm. But you do have the proper attendance and care, and your arm in a short time is well again. So your rupture will heal if given the same chance—viz., retain everything in a natural position the same as there was no rupture, and nature will do the rest. But the facts are:—you became ruptured, experienced very little or no pain, and you put off from day to day using the correct appliance needed to assist nature in its work. You needed a truss that would hold every condition of the strain from the injured part until it was healed, and strong enough to form its work again. You need an appliance that HOLDS AND HEALS WHILE YOU WORK.

HOW COULD The trusses that have been placed upon a rupture, constructed on the wrong principle and are now things of the past. In their day some were considered good and in some cases gave partial relief, but they were not self-adjusting. Some thought day would let the hernia out many times. In fact never two days alike because they were not self-adjusting. Some thought when the elastic was introduced, "here is a perfect truss at last," but they soon found out their mistake. They placed a dependence on elastic which was not self-adjusting, and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and it will be a source of trouble, and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are being let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of a truss cure a rupture? A rupture is a rupture, and it will not heal in its natural position. It is probably a waste of time to tell you about old style trusses. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps put so tight over the groin parts that you would think "I would never get this thing loose again," and many, after repeated trials, unable to bear the torture any longer, are risking their lives and living in misery without a truss.

HOW TO To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be held in a natural position, giving nature the chance to heal. In fact to be in the same natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It is a new idea, but it is a fact that has been placed in a new idea in the shape of what I may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, elastics, etc. To compare mine with others would be like comparing the electric light with an old time candle. It is a new idea, and it is a fact that has been placed upon a human being. A wonderful invention, holds with comfort everything in its proper, natural position, giving nature the chance to heal. It is a new idea, and it is a fact that has been placed upon a human being. A wonderful invention, holds with comfort everything in its proper, natural position, giving nature the chance to heal.

THIS HEAL constructed on the wrong principle and are now things of the past. In their day some were considered good and in some cases gave partial relief, but they were not self-adjusting. Some thought day would let the hernia out many times. In fact never two days alike because they were not self-adjusting. Some thought when the elastic was introduced, "here is a perfect truss at last," but they soon found out their mistake. They placed a dependence on elastic which was not self-adjusting, and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and it will be a source of trouble, and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are being let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of a truss cure a rupture? A rupture is a rupture, and it will not heal in its natural position. It is probably a waste of time to tell you about old style trusses. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps put so tight over the groin parts that you would think "I would never get this thing loose again," and many, after repeated trials, unable to bear the torture any longer, are risking their lives and living in misery without a truss.

WILL LAST 100 YEARS IF NEEDED

YOU WORK WHILE IT HEALS

DOES IT DO THIS

WHAT YOU WANT

PASTOR'S STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

THE STORY

which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a great wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me, for as I value my honor in this world and my soul in the next, I am hesitatingly declaring that a failure in any instance is impossible. A truly most wonderful invention; a blessing to mankind. An article that will cure, because it will hold everything just right, in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to re-unite and heal.

CAN YOU DOUBT I believe for a moment that Mr. Hayden would make a statement he did not believe and success is certain. Why will you drag out a miserable existence when the means of relief are at your command?

TERMS: It is the perfect confidence I have in my method of cure that warrants me in adopting the above terms. Surely I have great faith in my way of treating rupture or I would never make the following proposition.

NO CURE, NO PAY You will never make the following proposition firm date make, because they have not the goods to back it up. You will carefully fill up the Measure Blank with the answers to the questions asked thereon. We also ask you to sign our Special Order Blank. You will please send us those two blanks and return our truss, which can sell the afflicted party for \$10 or \$15. There are others who have no gratitude in them; their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing and in no way ever think of repaying a favor or paying what rightfully belongs to them for it. This I know from actual experience. To keep such parties from troubling me, I have decided on the following plan: You are to send the two blanks before mentioned and the small amount stated thereon, and in no way ever think of repaying a favor or paying what rightfully belongs to them for it. This I know from actual experience. 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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, 1900.

10-Saturday. The morning hours are adverse for the literary pursuits, but as the forenoon advances let all honorable undertakings be vigorously urged; buy goods for trade; have money transactions of conse-

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

LADIES That every invalid lady may learn how quickly she may be cured of uterine troubles, dis-

CANCER IS CURABLE
Write for Free Book of
HOME TREATMENT.
No Knife, Plaster or
Pain. **C. F. HASON MEDICAL CO., 121 W. 43d St., New York.**

NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.



Lost vitality creeps upon men unawares. Do not deceive yourself or remain in ignorance while you are being dragged down by this insidious disease. No matter what the cause may be, whether early abuses, excesses or overwork and business cares, the results are the same—premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, impotency, varicocele and

Five days' treatment will be placed in your hands free of cost, and you are earnestly urged for your own sake to send for it without delay. Write to day and send your address. It is not necessary to give embarrassing details of your symptoms. The book accompanying the five days' treatment will enable you to take the medicine in private and treat yourself successfully at home. It costs nothing to try this remedy. It may cost you a great deal more to let this offer go by. Write today. Address THE VON MOHL CO. 335 B. CINCINNATI, OHIO. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

Women Made
Beautiful

by TESTER. It develops the bust 6 inches, fills all hollow places, adds grace, curve and beauty to the neck; softens and clears the skin. Beautiful women everywhere owe their superb figure and matchless loveliness to Tester. Harmless, permanent. NEVER FAILS. Every lady should have this unrivalled developer. Adds charm and attraction to plainest women. Full particulars, photos, testimonials, etc., mailed for two cent stamp.

AURUM MEDICINE CO.
Dept. A. N. 55 State St. Chicago



pair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all leather shoes, and all saws, planes, and fillets. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing it. **price nine,** and if you have these tools in your house you can say if you let a brother or hire a man to do your repairing, **ment and cheap.** It is the only complete outfit of the **when the outfit** contained but about half as many smaller articles as the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by **includes a 6 months trial subscription** to this paper. **price of 25 cents each.** **W. W. Lloyd** and you can get a

A BIG OFFER

place, the two should be sent to the same place. If you want to receive bills that we send, we will give you a 30c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month, let us know. We pay in advance.

GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

HAVE YOU Sore throat, Pimples, Cold
Colored Spots, Aches, Old Sores
Ulcers in Mouth, Hair-Falling? Write
REMEDY CO., 1731 Masonic Temple, Chicago
Ill., for proofs of cures. **Capital, \$500,000**
Worst cases cured 15 to 35 days. 100-page book

**TEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER
NEVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE
IN THE WORLD!**

dreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs that could be done by you just as well as by the person you employ. You will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools to do it." Well, a plumber or cobbler or any other tradesman you stand around and look on, watching him do the work, you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing things that are seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the price for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of:

Four first-class tools, as shown in the above cut:
1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boys' work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work;
1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl handle; 1 shoehammer handle;
1 knife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl handle; 1 wrench;
1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 wire;
1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 boot
1 cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bottle
1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pair
1 pair nails, 4 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1
1 pair nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg steel nails, 4 prs.
1 assortment sizes; 6 harness needles; 6 harness
1 clamp; 1 box slotted rivets; 1 assortment
1 set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 set
1 iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 set
1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 set
1 set for hallooling, etc.; 1 copy directions
1 manual, securely packed, together with directions for use.
See These Tools and Hardware Store Separately
at cost between \$7.00 and \$9.00. You can repair tires,
tap and heel them, mend your harness or make repairs in
all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work
in all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as
of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending
tires.

You can easily save five times the cost of the tools
that you repair for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in
time saves nine." You can save a great deal of money which you
can use for anything you want. The tools are of the best quality
market and thousands have been sold in past years. They are
sent to people living in the country and small towns as well as
in large cities. The entire outfit is complete as above described for **only \$1.62** with
freight.

Sub of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the price

NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
WILLING TO WORK.

\$3.00 a Day Sure.

READER:

You are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present position and would like to make more money, it will be to your best to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you do like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make \$3 to \$5 a day at this business. We admit that \$3 to \$5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from \$20 to \$50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from \$20 to \$50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that \$3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging \$4 and \$5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from \$7 to \$10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, \$3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than \$3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that any shiftless agents will make \$3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear \$3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from \$5 to \$10, and even \$20 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable. In fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off; they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from \$3 to \$5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, \$2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	\$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to \$2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only \$1.00, which is \$1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in, costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in every way, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even one dollar and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what

we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the one dollar cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent one dollar and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:

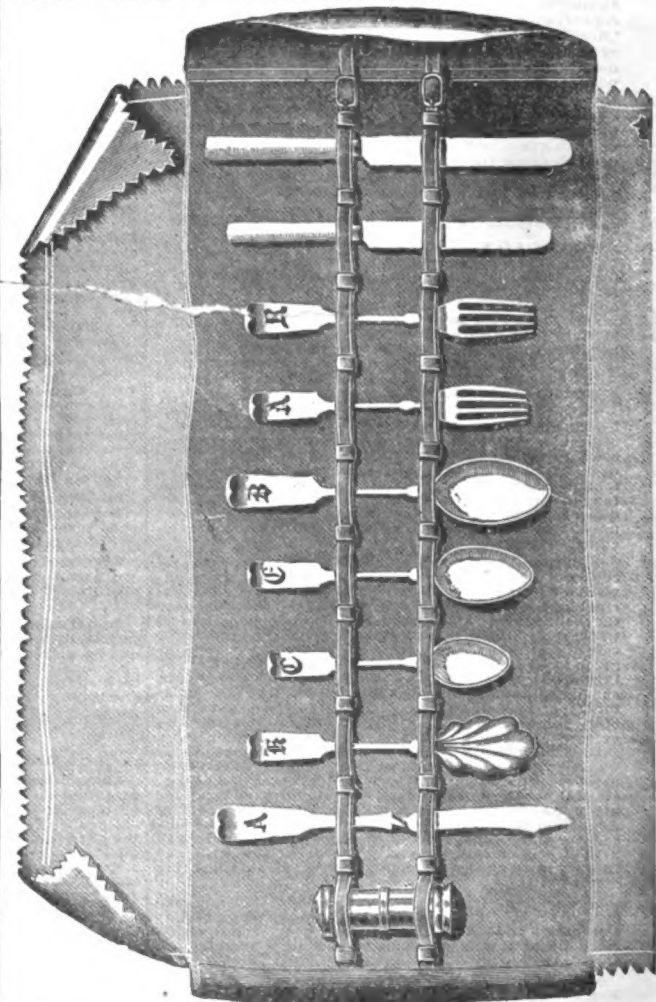
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the one dollar required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the one dollar. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County.....State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole roll up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage. Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,
Box 2800,
DETROIT, MICH.